

was poorly timed and badly handled by the Obama administration and was being challenged well before Pruitt was confirmed as EPA administrator.

"I think the environmental groups are just very upset because they were counting on a different administration that would move forward with very onerous existing source rules," said Kathleen Sgamma, president of the Western Energy Alliance.

"The bottom line was this ICR was rushed at the last minute, it was not well thought-out and was asking for data that would have overwhelmed the agency. It was sending out a huge net to trawl in all kinds of data that would not be useful for regulating methane," she said.

The challenge to the ICR was not in opposition to providing data about methane emissions, at least according to the Independent Petroleum Association of America. Instead, it had objected in part because the agency did not follow advice to seek out data that were already publicly available through state agencies and the private website Drillinginfo, said Lee Fuller, executive vice president of IPAA.

Fuller said IPAA had provided public comment to EPA under the Obama administration, and then had requested a halt to the ICR once Donald Trump was elected president, especially since there is ongoing litigation challenging the new source regulations.

"We started talking to the transition team with the Trump administration, so the new administration could make a decision about whether it would want to pursue the same pathway as the Obama administration. We continued to urge them to reconsider the approach and well before there was any administrator," said Fuller.

He called the decision to terminate the ICR the "right course of action."

### **Transparency an ongoing concern**

As environmental groups seek to dig into Pruitt's communications with industry and his former attorney general colleagues, they may run into another problem: access to his email.

Advocacy groups say there could be cause for concern about transparency at a Pruitt-led EPA, after a recent court case against the former Oklahoma attorney general revealed he had used private email, at least on occasion, to conduct official business.

"The problem is, we don't know how extensive his use of personal email was, we had very few examples of him using his Oklahoma [attorney general] account, there is a lingering question over how prevalent it was," said Nick Surgey, research director at the Center for Media and Democracy.

"We're asking the court to ensure that Scott Pruitt's [personal] email account was searched for and any emails that should have been included in the request to us," Surgey said.

Pruitt's use of private email was not in accordance with the "spirit of the law," said Alex Howard, deputy director of the Sunlight Foundation, an open-government advocacy organization.

"Certainly if an official does have a pattern of using private messaging, then people will naturally put those people under more scrutiny for using that approach," Howard said.

If Pruitt did use a private email as EPA administrator, the public would have a hard time getting access to the records unless the private account is leaked or made public in some way.

### **Barrasso 'pleased' Pruitt will now stick to EPA email**

While it's possible to submit a FOIA request for the administrator's personal email, there has to be some sort of record or trail showing its existence, said Aaron Scherb, director of legislative affairs at Common Cause, a lobbying organization.

"You can't just say any private email address that John Doe could use," said Scherb.

The EPA administrator joins Vice President Mike Pence and former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton as the latest politician to be publicly outed for using personal email for official business.

While they may be the most prominent recent examples, the use of personal email, personal devices and private messaging apps is common practice in all levels of government and among all parties, according to Howard.

"Sometimes it's a matter of convenience, sometimes it's intentional," Howard said. "This is the digital equivalent of stepping out into the hallway to have a conversation that's not on the record."

Now that Pruitt is working at a federal level, he will be subject to more public laws and record requirements than he was as a state attorney general. But short of putting politicians under 24-hour surveillance, there is no way to prevent these kinds of communications from happening, Howard said.

"We have to trust them that they are going to do their best to follow the law," he said.

A spokesman for Sen. John Barrasso (R-Wyo.), head of the Senate Environmental and Public Works Committee, said in an email that the senator had asked Pruitt about whether he would use personal email to conduct EPA business during his confirmation hearing.

"The chairman asked Pruitt if he would commit to only using his EPA email account for official EPA business. The chairman was pleased that Pruitt agreed," the spokesman said.

### **E&E News**

## **The Clean Power Plan is gone – and there's no 'replace'**

By Evan Lehmann 3/9/17

The White House intends to unravel the Clean Power Plan without providing a replacement, according to a source briefed on the issue.

An executive order expected to be released next week also instructs the Justice Department to effectively withdraw its legal defense of the climate rule in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. The move aligns the White House with about two dozen Republican state attorneys general who are challenging the way the rule restricts greenhouse gas emissions at power plants.

The result, if successful, would mean the case is "frozen in place," the source said, preventing the D.C. Circuit, which has six judges appointed by Democrats and four by Republicans, from issuing an opinion this spring. Other legal experts say the case could continue if states or other groups go on defending the rule.

"Justice goes to the court and says ... 'Don't waste your time trying to put together an opinion when the legal basis for the case that you're reviewing could potentially go away,'" the source said. "Normally, a court will grant that. There's no guarantee."

It was unclear until now if the Trump administration would "repeal and replace" the Clean Power Plan, or just set upon a path to undo it. Some had anticipated that the Trump administration might pursue an alternative and much less stringent rule, but the executive order will only call for the withdrawal of the regulation.

That raises questions about whether EPA would fail to satisfy legal requirements to regulate carbon dioxide and other climate pollutants.

The agency in 2009, responding to the Supreme Court, determined that greenhouse gases endanger human health. That requires EPA to regulate emissions, and the agency did that by promulgating the Clean Power Plan.

"I think, as a matter of law, that carbon is a pollutant has been settled," said Christine Todd Whitman, who served as EPA administrator under President George W. Bush. "EPA has to act once you have that kind of a finding."

### **Waiting for the 'right time'?**

The new details are surfacing as the White House confirmed yesterday that the executive order's release would be delayed. It was scheduled to be signed by President Trump this week. Now that will likely occur next week.

The delay follows successful efforts by Ivanka Trump, the president's daughter, and her husband, Jared Kushner, to remove language from the order that was critical of the Paris Agreement on climate change.

The current order does not refer to the global pact, and the source said that issue did not hold up the order's release. The delay was caused by the rise of other priorities, including the release of the Republican health care proposal Monday, the source said.

Trump also caused unforeseen turbulence Saturday by accusing former President Obama of wiretapping Trump Tower.

Coal companies and mining groups, which Trump described as being victimized by the climate rule on the campaign trail, have waited patiently through the delays. But now that he's 49 days into his presidency, there are subtle signs that industry wishes he would act more swiftly.

Jeff Holmstead, a former assistant EPA administrator under Bush who represents opponents to the rule, said it's likely the White House is waiting for the right time to unveil the rule with maximum effect.

"I hope it's soon," he added. "I think everybody, certainly all of my clients, think the Clean Power Plan is dead. But there's always uncertainties."

### **Fresh lawsuits await**

For some Democrats, the order represents a tightrope walk. It's bound to be challenged in court by liberal state attorneys general and environmental groups for not providing an alternative to the Clean Power Plan. But if it did provide one, Republicans in coal states would likely feel that Trump had abandoned his campaign promise to terminate the regulation.

"It's not like [Senate Majority Leader] Mitch McConnell [R-Ky.] will say, 'OK, they're gonna do a new rulemaking on power plants, so I'm sure it'll be better,'" said Heather Zichal, Obama's former climate adviser. "They fundamentally don't think coal plants should be held accountable for their carbon pollution. So how do you deal with that piece? I think politically that's hard for them."

Environmental groups are already promising to sue EPA for failing to comply with its own endangerment finding.

"If EPA withdraws [the rule] and does not replace it with strong standards, we will challenge the agency's action in court," said Joanne Spalding, the chief climate counsel at the Sierra Club.

The administration anticipates that. The executive order instructs EPA to "revise or rescind"



the Clean Power Plan, wording that's meant to comply with the Administrative Procedure Act by letting EPA, not the White House, determine the fate of the rule.

The agency will then go through the long rulemaking process. But rather than promulgating a new rule, it will terminate an existing one. It will post notice and take comments and then put out a proposed rule. After accepting more comment, the action will be finalized. Then the administration is "off to the races in court," the source said.

The Clean Power Plan is just one part of the executive order, which is geared around "energy independence."

It does not address the endangerment finding, which is the underpinning of current and future EPA regulations on greenhouse gases. No decision has been made by White House officials about whether to attack the finding in subsequent actions, the source said.

"That is a huge issue," the source said. "That's just going to require a lot of thinking."

### **InsideClimate News**

<https://insideclimatenews.org/news/09032017/epa-environmental-justice-mustafa-ali-flint-water-crisis-dakota-access-pipeline-trump-scott-pruitt>

### **Chief Environmental Justice Official at EPA Resigns, With Plea to Pruitt to Protect Vulnerable Communities**

By Phil Mckenna 3/9/17

The head of the environmental justice program at the Environmental Protection Agency has stepped down, departing the government with a lengthy letter to Scott Pruitt, the EPA's new administrator, urging him not to kill the agency's programs.

Mustafa Ali, a senior adviser and assistant associate administrator at the agency, worked to alleviate the impact of air, water and industrial pollution on poverty-stricken towns and neighborhoods during nearly a quarter century with the EPA. He helped found the environmental justice office, then the environmental equity office, in 1992, during the presidency of President George H.W. Bush.

Ali leaves the EPA as Pruitt, who took office Feb. 17, prepares to implement deep cuts in the agency's budget and staff. A Trump administration proposal would cut the EPA's \$8 billion budget by \$2 billion and reduce its roster of 15,000 employees by 20 percent. An internal memo obtained by multiple news outlets on March 1 called for a complete dismantling of the office of environmental justice and elimination of a number of grant programs that address low-income and minority communities. A story in the Oregonian reported that funding for the office would decrease 78 percent, from \$6.7 million to \$1.5 million.

Justice issues have become an environmental focal point in recent years—most recently in the battle to clean up lead-contaminated water in Flint, Mich., a largely African-American community, and in the fight to stop the nearly completed Dakota Access pipeline just upstream of the Standing Rock Reservation in North Dakota.

"I think it's going to be one of the major civil rights issues of the 21st century," said Benjamin Wilson, head of the National Environmental Justice Conference and chairman of the law firm Beveridge & Diamond. "It's going to become increasingly not simply local but regional, national and international in scope."

Ali said he has received no indication that the adviser position or his job as assistant associate administrator in the agency's Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance will be filled by the Trump administration. EPA officials declined to comment on the positions.

The EPA made strides during the Obama administration to address environmental justice concerns, including incorporating equity into regulatory decision-making, and adopting a long-term strategy in its EJ 2020 Action Agenda. The agency was, however, heavily criticized for not doing enough to address environmental concerns of low-income and minority populations.

Ali said in an interview that he considers the shielding of poor and minority neighborhoods from the effects of pollution a crucial function of the EPA, but that the agency's new leaders have not given "any indication that they are focused or interested in helping those vulnerable communities. My values and priorities seem to be different than our current leadership and because of that I feel that it's best if I take my talents elsewhere."

Still, in his resignation letter, which was devoid of rancor, Ali urged former Oklahoma Attorney General Pruitt, a longtime opponent of EPA regulation, to reconsider proposed cuts to environmental justice programs. "When I hear we are considering making cuts to grant programs like the EJ small grants or Collaborative Problem Solving programs, which have assisted over 1,400 communities, I wonder if our new leadership has had the opportunity to converse with those who need our help the most," Ali wrote. "I strongly encourage you and your team to continue promoting agency efforts to validate these communities' concerns, and value their lives."

Meanwhile, the power that Ali once wielded inside the EPA has been dissipated. His position as senior adviser to the EPA administrator was eliminated in January when Obama's EPA chief Gina McCarthy left, he said.

"I am heartbroken that Mustafa feels that his time of productivity in the agency has passed," McCarthy said in an interview. "He managed the interagency working group on environmental justice," she said, referring to a conclave of federal agencies that met to discuss common concerns. "So when I say we brought actions and strategies to the table, it wasn't just EPA, it was throughout the federal government."

Part of the environmental justice program's strategy was to help leverage its relatively small grants into large programs. The town of Spartanburg, South Carolina, for example, received a \$20,000 environmental justice grant to help clean up contaminated industrial sites in the town. Spartanburg ultimately raised more than \$270 million from public and

private sources and used the recovered land to build housing, a job training facility and health centers.

"You're talking about a community that was devastated and that raised itself up because you had great community members and they had somebody who listened to them at the federal government," McCarthy said. "Mustafa was one of those people. I went to that community. I sat with the mayor. He gave me a key to the city. We were sitting in a community center that had been developed as a result of this small start, where somebody paid attention to that community and it happened to be EPA."

Cynthia Giles, assistant administrator for the Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance in the Obama administration, cites the town of Tonawanda, New York, to which the EPA gave a small grant to conduct ambient air monitoring. The grant "ultimately led to a criminal case that EPA brought against Tonawanda Coke Corporation for high levels of benzene emissions," Giles said.

Giles said there is no economic justification for killing the justice program. "The money that is involved is not noticeable in the overall scheme of budgets," she said. "The only reason to eliminate it would be to send a message—that they don't care about the needs of the most vulnerable communities."

"We've had both [Republican and Democratic administrations] over time and none of them tried to do anything to destroy what the previous administration had done," Ali said. "Folks are just hoping that this one will wake up and see value in continuing this important work."

Yet Ali sees nothing in Pruitt's background to support that hope. He repeatedly sued the EPA for its efforts to regulate CO2 emissions, mercury and other forms of pollution. "When the administrator was in Oklahoma I do not know of any time that he made environmental justice a priority," Ali said.

Pruitt tweeted last month he was dedicated to working with "stakeholders—industry, farmers, ranchers, business owners—on traditional values of environmental stewardship."

Some of the responses the tweet garnered included: "What about environmental advocates?" "What about...people w/o access to safe water & air? Our children?" And "what about ordinary citizens."

In a February statement, advocacy group We Act for Environmental Justice said of Pruitt: "His record indicates he lacks awareness or concern for communities impacted by asthma and other environmental health-related issues."

Ali, who grew up near a coal-fired power plant in West Virginia, interned in the office of William Reilly, the agency's third administrator, before joining as a staff member in the newly formed office of environmental equity in Nov. 1992. From 2007-2008, Ali worked on Capitol Hill in the office of Congressman John Conyers before returning to the EPA. He proudly boasts that he has worked on environmental justice issues in more than 500 communities.

"His work and the work of the EPA has helped empower people, and whenever we can have a clear articulation of the issues, it's amazing the common ground that can be

reached by people on opposing sides," Wilson said. "But if we never have that discussion, that frustration festers and that is never good."

Ali will join Hip Hop Caucus as a senior vice president. The group is a non-profit that aims to promote political activism for young U.S. voters through hip-hop music and culture. He is scheduled to speak Thursday at an environmental justice conference in Flint, in his first public appearance with the organization.

"What I'm hoping to do is highlight that environmental justice needs to continue to happen," Ali said, "that there are opportunities to make it happen, and that if we don't do it there will be huge public health impacts."

### **LA Times**

<http://www.latimes.com/politics/la-na-pol-regulatory-reform-science-20170309-story.html>

### **What's at stake as the GOP moves to slash regulations? For starters, clean air**

By Evan Halper 3/9/17 3:00 AM

Amid the Republican backlash against federal scientists who write rules governing everything from movie theater popcorn to offshore oil drilling, stories abound of overburdened businesses, heavy-handed civil servants and crushing paperwork.

But another story, one involving a deadly household material, offers a lesson in what can go wrong when government experts are shackled, as currently envisioned under a sweeping regulatory reform bill gliding toward President Trump's desk.

The GOP-backed legislation revives many of the rule-making hurdles that for years crippled the government's ability to respond to the asbestos-exposure epidemic, which has been blamed for tens of thousands of American deaths.

"I don't think lawmakers are focusing on how extreme this legislation is," said Paul Billings, lobbyist for the American Lung Assn., which has joined several major public health groups imploring congressional leaders to apply the brakes. "It has been viewed as this abstraction that creates improvements in the regulatory process. This would undermine bedrock public health laws."

The linchpin of the 87-page proposal is a directive to regulators that may be impossible to meet. They would have to prove they have taken the least costly option possible to business before imposing any major new rule. A similar mandate became stifling when applied for decades to the regulation of chemicals such as asbestos because it allowed companies to keep rules at bay by continually arguing for cheaper approaches.

The Environmental Protection Agency gave up trying to ban the substance in 1991, after a

federal appeals court ruled it had not proved its regulation was the least financially burdensome approach. The decision became a rallying point for overhauling the Toxic Substances Control Act, which guides EPA authority over such chemicals. The act finally was revised last year, and in November, the EPA announced asbestos was among the first chemicals it was targeting with its new authority to require safety reviews.

By then, however, there was not much left for the EPA to do on asbestos, after legions of cancer victims took matters into their own hands with civil actions that bankrupted the industry. But the years of government inaction took their toll. A quarter-century later, nearly 15,000 Americans still die annually of diseases caused by asbestos exposure during their lifetime, according to the Asbestos Disease Awareness Organization.

The new GOP regulatory reform bill, which swiftly passed the House in January without committee debate, would apply the same test that hobbled regulators on asbestos to every major rule the government wants to impose. That includes setting Clean Air Act limits for how much toxic pollution can be released into the air in dense, asthma-infested urban areas like Los Angeles. Car safety, food safety, worker safety and consumer product safety rule-making also would be affected.

The far-reaching plan has been overshadowed by more immediate headlines springing from the White House, where wiretapping conspiracies, travel bans and Obamacare repeal anxieties are consuming the oxygen. Even the regulatory reform blueprint's name — the Regulatory Accountability Review Act — is sleep-inducing, masking the gravity of a proposal the U.S. Chamber of Commerce has placed among its top political priorities at a time when its influence in Washington has surged.

The chamber has invested tens of millions of dollars in lobbying for and promoting the bill, HR 5. It alerted lawmakers just before the measure passed the House in January that it “is a long-standing priority for the chamber” that is “long overdue.” Lawmakers were cautioned in the letter against supporting any amendments that would moderate the proposed law, warning that such action could reflect unfavorably on the politically potent voting scorecard that the organization publishes to rank lawmakers.

While there are several dramatic proposals before Congress to rein in federal rule-makers, lobbyists are advising clients that the bill is one that actually stands a good chance of advancing to a president who is urgently looking to deliver a blow to the bureaucracy. A few moderate Democrats in the Senate already have expressed interest in helping the GOP leadership secure the 60 votes it needs for passage.

Supporters offer a cache of statistics that frame the bill as a common sense plan to give corporations some influence over a regulatory process they say is suffocating them. They point to a spike over the past 15 years in complex federal rules costing businesses more than a billion dollars, and showcase estimates concluding the rules have become such a drag on the economy that they are costing the average American family \$15,000 per year.

“There is a legitimate question of whether you really need this continued churning and

accumulation of all these regulations,” said Susan Dudley, who worked on regulatory reform at the George W. Bush White House and is now director of Regulatory Studies Center at George Washington University.

But others warn the legislation threatens to go considerably further than slowing the churn of rule-making. It directs agencies that for decades have used science alone in crafting major public health and worker safety protections to change course and find the most cost-effective approach for business.

“It’s not hard to look down the line and see the problems this would create,” said Thomas McGarity, professor of administrative law at the University of Texas. He cited several major public safety challenges with which regulators are wrestling and the potentially tragic consequences of cutting corners on oversight, from undrinkable water in cities like Flint, Mich., to blueprints for self-driving 18-wheelers.

Beyond requiring a cost analysis, the legislation also would put dozens of new obstacles on federal agencies before they can finalize a new rule — a process that already takes years. Companies that don’t like the approach would be empowered with a bounty of new opportunities to file legal challenges and demand reviews.

Yogin Kothari, a lobbyist at the Environmental Working Group, sees irony in it all: “Their solution to too much bureaucracy and red tape is adding more red tape.”

Clean Air Act enforcement, which is based on a painstaking analysis of such factors as how many lives would be saved and cases of asthma averted, could be altered drastically. The toll those rules take on corporate profits would gain new currency. Public health officials warn that enforcement of tobacco laws also would be inhibited.

The Consumers Union advised lawmakers that other landmark protections, including the Consumer Product Safety Act and the Securities Exchange Act, would be weakened substantially. “This dangerous proposal would do severe damage to protections consumers depend on,” the group wrote to lawmakers.

Yet the bill’s champions in Congress are undeterred. Among them are Rep. Doug Collins (R-Georgia), who took to the House floor the same day Consumers Union sent its plea.

“It is time we demand the voice of the American people be heard,” Collins said just before casting his vote in favor of the bill, “rather than letting the others up here, separated in cubicles, decide what is best.”

### **Inside EPA**

<https://insideepa.com/daily-news/ecos-mounts-defense-epas-state-funding-assistance-fy18-cuts>

### **ECOS Mounts Defense OF EPA’s State Funding Assistance from FY18 Cuts**

By David LaRoss and Doug Obey 3/8/17

The Environmental Council of the States (ECOS) is mounting a strong defense of EPA grants and other programs that support state activities from the Trump administration's suggested massive cuts to agency funding in fiscal year 2018, warning the cuts could threaten states' ability to meet a wide range of environmental protection goals.

In an exclusive March 8 interview with *Inside EPA*, ECOS President John Linc Stine -- who also serves as commissioner of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency -- said the council, which represents many state environment regulators, is planning meetings with White House officials and members of Congress in the coming weeks to urge them to defend areas of EPA's budget that provide direct funding support to states.

A reduction in EPA's FY18 budget "has the potential of cutting across the entirety of our activities, but it's unclear until we see the entirety of their budget document what areas they're proposing to reduce," Stine said, with the Trump administration said to consider up to a 25 percent cut to EPA's existing \$8.1 billion funding, including possibly reducing EPA's 10 regional offices to eight.

He told *Inside EPA* that ECOS is scheduling meetings with White House Office of Management & Budget (OMB) officials and legislators "to advise them of our concerns."

But the states are also acknowledging that any cuts to EPA will almost certainly impact them in some way, because "it's all a priority for state agencies like ours," he said.

In a separate March 7 interview, ECOS Executive Director and General Counsel Alex Dunn said cuts could be especially harmful when they affect programs where states have accepted delegated authority from EPA with a promise of federal funding -- and could discourage states from seeking such delegation.

For instance, she said budget cuts might complicate efforts by states like Massachusetts,

which is currently weighing accepting delegated authority over the Clean Water Act discharge permit program.

“The natural question from Massachusetts legislature will be, we are going to take on performing a service or an activity previously done by EPA Region 1. How much will EPA be giving us to assist? . . . When you look at a new delegation it becomes clear that new federal funding should be a part of” the process, she said.

## **ECOS' Concerns**

ECOS has previously raised concerns that the White House's plan to cut EPA's budget significantly may renege on commitments by agency Administrator Scott Pruitt to preserve state grants as he works to return much of the responsibility for implementing environmental programs to states.

In a March 1 letter to Pruitt and OMB Director Mick Mulvaney, ECOS questioned the proposed cuts in light of Feb. 25 remarks by Pruitt at the Conservative Political Action Conference where he called states and EPA "partners, not adversaries," and said, "help is on the way."

While the Trump administration has yet to release its formal budget request for FY18, OMB's initial “pass back” includes a 25 percent cut to EPA's current \$8.14 billion overall budget and a 30 percent cut to many grant programs.

OMB's threatened cuts for EPA have raised concerns among a wide array of stakeholders, including industry and states, that EPA could be left without the funds needed to perform mandatory duties such as providing resources to state environment departments that lack the ability to operate solely on state funds.

“When I look at our budget in Minnesota for example, we receive \$25 million a year in EPA grant funds not including the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative project dollars,” Stine told *Inside EPA*.



He said EPA money “across our grants” supports monitoring for “air, land and water contamination,” state regulators' permitting and enforcement work, and contaminated site cleanups including but not limited to the Superfund and brownfields programs.

In the separate interview, Dunn said, “States have made it pretty clear that core funding for the air, water, land programs needs to remain whole.”

## **Regional Offices**

Beyond threats to federal funds, Stine added that a plan to possibly close EPA regional offices is concerning to state officials, both because states receive technical and regulatory assistance from regional officials and because some high-profile program efforts like the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) are operated by the regions.

The effect of shuttering regional offices “really does depend on the transactional requirements for each regional office, but it would be a concern because if you’re going to have a change . . . there’s always a transitional period where things get less efficient and less clear for people, so there’s time that gets consumed in trying to sort that all out,” he said.

As part of the budget planning process, OMB is requiring EPA to craft a plan for consolidating the current 10 regional offices down to eight in order to realize “efficiencies” -- though it is unclear how likely it is that such a plan will make it into the budget request.

“I know that there are some of the regions that are having a conversation with the states, I think the Western states,” but there are no indications of whether the consolidation will happen, Stine said. He noted that along with GLRI, restoration efforts for the Chesapeake Bay, Puget Sound and San Francisco Bay are all administered through EPA regional offices.

However, he did not dismiss the idea that consolidating regions could ultimately make EPA

more efficient. Beyond the initial “transitional period,” it is “too soon to tell whether it has a positive, negative or neutral impact at this point,” Stine said.

## **EPA Budget**

ECOS discussed budget priorities with OMB staff during a “recent” phone call, Stine and Dunn told *Inside EPA*. There, the White House expressed interest in state input on EPA's budget, signaling that the administration will at least consider states' requests to shore up the agency's funding despite the GOP's long-standing push to dramatically cut its activities.

“It was pretty much a listening and gathering from their perspective. . . . They did ask us to be prepared to carefully review the budget and offer more comments,” Stine said.

Dunn added that OMB appeared to be under pressure to broadly cut federal spending. “It is very clear . . . There is a very strong directive for all agencies to look very closely at the budget,” she said.

Even though Pruitt has vowed to fight to preserve funds for his priorities -- such as water infrastructure assistance, site cleanups and attainment of existing water and air standards -- Stine said it is unclear what steps the agency's leadership is taking or could take to shore up the FY18 budget.

“We’re aware that the agency is in dialogue with OMB about this . . . we’ve not received anything directly from Mr. Pruitt, but we’ve heard in communications with senior staff that they are looking closely at the budget for state programs,” he said.

Dunn said pressure from the White House to cut spending seems to put Pruitt in a tough position, because maintaining state assistance will almost certainly mean deeper cuts to EPA's own programs if EPA's overall budget is in fact reduced.

“The challenge is defending the state programs when the inevitable next question is, what about the staff and the agency that he has to run as well?” she said, adding that if EPA avoids reducing state assistance then it will almost certainly have to cut resources and staff from program offices, prompting “some very difficult decisions.”

ECOS' March 1 letter to Pruitt and Mulvaney called for an increase to state and tribal assistance grants (STAG), including the categorical grants that support states' and tribes' implementation of federal environmental mandates.

"Cuts to STAG categorical grants, or to EPA programs operated by states, will have profound impacts on states' ability to implement the core environmental programs as expected by our citizens," the letter said. -- *David LaRoss* ([dlaross@iwpnews.com](mailto:dlaross@iwpnews.com)) & *Doug Obey* ([dobey@iwpnews.com](mailto:dobey@iwpnews.com))

### **Quartz**

<https://qz.com/928236/the-word-science-has-disappeared-from-the-mission-statement-of-the-epas-office-of-science-and-technology/>

### **Who needs “science” in an EPA Office of Science and Technology mission statement anyway?**

By Zoe Schlanger 3/8/17

The branch of the US Environmental Protection Agency in charge of creating science-based clean water standards no longer has the word “science” in its mission statement.

Earlier this year, the stated mission of the Office of Science and Technology at the EPA’s Water Office was “developing sound, science-based standards,” and “scientific and technological foundations to achieve clean water,” according to a copy of the EPA’s website archived in January on the Internet Archive’s Wayback Machine.

The text of the mission statement has changed; the office’s mandate is now to create “economically and technologically achievable performance standards.” The word “science-based” and “scientific” no longer appear.

A coalition of researchers called the Environmental Data and Governance Initiative, or EDGI, found the changes. They are monitoring about 25,000 government web pages for any modifications under the new administration, by comparing them to copies archived on the Internet Archive by “data rescuing” events staged by archivists and programmers at universities across the country. (EDGI also plans to track any data sets that are removed.)

EDGI researcher Gretchen Gehrke told the New Republic she worries the switch is not just a linguistic detail—that it may signal a change in policy.

Instead of a science-based approach to clean water requirements—where water must meet quality standards based on peer-reviewed toxicology science, and companies can choose how to meet those standards—calling for “economically and technologically achievable” standards puts greater emphasis on the economic impact of regulation, and may mean companies would install certain technologies determined by the EPA rather than comply with a specific water-quality standard.

The EDGI researchers have found a number of other notable website tweaks: Climate change reports have disappeared off of State Department websites, while a description of a federal fracking rule, and another about a methane emissions rule, have also gone missing from Interior Department web pages.

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**To:** Benton, Donald[benton.donald@epa.gov]  
**Cc:** Sugiyama, George[sugiyama.george@epa.gov]  
**From:** Leslie Ritts  
**Sent:** Fri 3/17/2017 4:47:19 PM  
**Subject:** RE: Cancelling the NEDA/CAP Meeting at Occidental Petroleum on Mar. 23 noon

Don – We have decided to reschedule the NEDA/CAP Meeting at a later date Don, so you are officially off the hook.

Have a wonderful weekend!

Thanks,



Leslie Sue Ritts

Ritts Law Group, PLLC

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**From:** Leslie Ritts [Personal Email/Ex. 6]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 17, 2017 11:02 AM  
**To:** benton.donald@epa.gov  
**Cc:** 'Sugiyama, George'  
**Subject:** NEDA/CAP Meeting at Occidental Petroleum, Mar. 23 noon

Dear Don,

Again, I'm that "nice lady" George Sugiyama was endeavoring to help by finding a speaker for an industry manufacturing coalition meeting on March 23 (this coming Thursday) at noon **OR ANYTIME BETWEEN 10-3**. (D. Schnare was to come as I noted on my message, but he is no longer reachable.)

This is an informal coalition of manufacturers from various industry sectors. Generally, they are their company's corporate environmental managers, government relations folks, or compliance officers. (Our host for the meeting is Oxy's gov't affairs manager. NEDA/CAP itself is an old DC air coalition that focuses on preconstruction permitting, but these company reps do *everything environmental*.)

I had asked David to talk about the transition team, appointments, important issues (from WOTUS to the Clean Power Plan, the Paris and Kigali Montreal Protocol Treaties that President Obama "ratified", etc. and he had asked me for talking points, which I am happy to do.

I have reps from the following companies confirmed for the meeting:

ADM,

Boeing,

BP America,

Eli Lilly,  
Fiat Chrysler,

Georgia Pacific,  
Hyundai,  
Koch Ag,  
Koch Public Sectors,  
Lilly,  
Merck,  
Momentiv,  
Occidental Petroleum,  
Procter & Gamble.

WE WOULD BE HONORED (AND I MEAN THAT SINCERELY) IF YOU COULD JOIN US  
ANYTIME BETWEEN 10 and 3 on Thursday, Mar. 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Many thanks for your consideration,



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**To:** Benton, Donald[benton.donald@epa.gov]  
**Cc:** Sugiyama, George[sugiyama.george@epa.gov]  
**From:** Leslie Ritts  
**Sent:** Fri 3/17/2017 3:01:44 PM  
**Subject:** NEDA/CAP Meeting at Occidental Petroleum, Mar. 23 noon

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**From:** Bulletin Intelligence [epa@bulletinintelligence.com]  
**Sent:** 1/31/2017 12:02:16 PM  
**To:** epa@BulletinIntelligence.com  
**Subject:** EPA Daily News Briefing for Tuesday, January 31, 2017  
**Attachments:** epaNewsBriefing170131.doc

Mobile version and searchable archives available at [epa.bulletinintelligence.com](http://epa.bulletinintelligence.com).



## EPA Daily News Briefing

Bulletin  
INTELLIGENCE

**TO: ADMINISTRATOR AND SENIOR EXECUTIVES**

**DATE: TUESDAY, JANUARY 31, 2017 7:00 AM EST**

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  - Doniger: Scott Pruitt's Climate Denial Shines Thru His Senate Answers. (HUFFPOST)

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  - Air Pollution: Cross-State Rule Challengers Fault EPA Modeling, Conditions. (EEPUB)

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- Trump Orders Elimination Of Two Regulations For Every New One. (USAT, REU, WSJ, POLITICO, BLOOMPOL)

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The Salt Lake (UT) Tribune (1/30) reports that Ebell's views are worth noting because "they seem in line with plans by Trump and congressional Republicans to cut domestic spending." Moreover, his selection as head of the EPA transition team "was an indication of the agency's likely direction under Trump."

### **Trump's Former Adviser Calls For Overhaul Of Endangered Species Act.**

The Independent (UK) (1/30, Batchelor) reports that "a senior member of Donald Trump's now-defunct transition team has called for the US Endangered Species Act to be drastically watered down, claiming it doesn't actually protect wildlife." Myron Ebell, "who led a team tasked by the Republican billionaire with drafting an action plan to overhaul the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), said the legislation was being used as a 'political weapon' and many of its policies should be scrapped." Speaking in London on Monday, Ebell said: "The endangered species act doesn't do much for protecting endangered wildlife, but it does a huge amount to control private property land use, and it is enforced very selectively, so that some landowners are not affected but people with exactly the same habitat, their use is limited or eliminated." He continued, "It is a political weapon and I am very interested in reforming, and I don't know if we will see that any time in the next decade, but I hope so."

### **Additional Reading.**



- *Leaked EPA Memo: Not Even The EPA Knows What's Going On With The EPA.* [Popular Science](#). (1/30)
- *EPA Transition Team Tells Staff Not To Believe What They See In The News* . [Vice](#). (1/30)

## PESTICIDES

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### California One Step Closer To Adding Cancer Warning To Roundup.

The [AP](#) (1/30) reports that a judge tentatively ruled on Friday that California can become the first state to require Monsanto to label its popular weed-killer Roundup as a "possible cancer threat." The ruling remains contentious, as the EPA has not restricted the main ingredient in Roundup, glyphosate, which it says has "low toxicity."

## RULES/REGULATIONS/POLICY

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### Experts: SCOTUS Decision On EPA Rule Set Precedent That May Challenge Trump's Border Wall.

[Greenwire](#) (1/30) reports a 2015 Supreme Court decision that upended the Obama administration's mercury standards for power plants "will hinder President Trump's grand plans to build a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border, legal experts say." In *Michigan v. EPA*, the high court ruled 5-4 that EPA failed to consider regulatory costs associated with the rule. Opponents of Trump's wall "could argue that the administration must show the project's final benefits outweigh its costs."

### Trump Orders Elimination Of Two Regulations For Every New One.

[USA Today](#) (1/30, Korte) reports that President Trump on Monday signed an executive action he said will "knock out two regulations for every new regulation" federal agencies adopt. Trump called the action "the largest cut by far, in terms of regulation," in history and said the policy was targeted at small business. Trump said, "There will be regulation, there will be control, but there will be normalized control where you can open your business and expand your business." USA Today adds that directive's text "was not immediately available, and it was unclear how the two-for-one mechanism would work." [Reuters](#) (1/30, Rascoe) says Trump's action "will prepare a process for the White House to set an annual cap on the cost of new regulations." For the remainder of the fiscal year, "the cap will require that the cost of any additional regulations be completely offset by undoing existing rules." Trump [tweeted](#), "The American dream is back. We're going to create an environment for small business like we haven't had in many, many decades!" He [re-tweeted](#) the post on the @POTUS Twitter account.

While a [Wall Street Journal](#) (1/30) editorial praises the order, arguing that it will it could lead to job creation and new investment, a number of reports highlights the difficulty Trump may face in putting it into action. For example, [Politico](#) (1/30, Restuccia) said that while Trump's aides cast the move as "the most significant regulatory reform effort in decades," implementing it "isn't as simple as Trump's flashy 'one in, two out' slogan suggests." According to Politico, the order "could take months, if not years, to implement and likely faces costly court challenges." [Bloomberg Politics](#) (1/30, Dlouhy) similarly says that "fulfilling the promise...may prove more difficult than signing an order." Eliminating a regulation "involves months of work that can include vetting multiple rule drafts and reacting to thousands or even millions of comments from industries, trade groups and individuals." Moreover, the process "can be challenged with a lawsuit by aggrieved parties."

## WATER

### **Flint Residents File \$722.4 Million Class-Action Lawsuit Against EPA.**

The Detroit News (1/30, Lynch) reports more than 1,700 Flint residents are seeking \$722.4 million in damages in a class-action lawsuit against the EPA "for the 'mishandling' of the city's water crisis." The agency "failed to respond to an administrative claim filed last year," which allowed the lawsuit to be filed. In it, residents argue that the EPA "failed to follow several specific agency mandates and directives governing its conduct" in Flint, which resulted in additional harm to residents. MLive (MI) (1/30, Acosta) reports the charges include "failure to take mandatory actions required by the Safe Drinking Water Act, failing to undertake a timely investigation and failing to warn the public of environmental risks to public health," and the lawsuit alleges that the EPA was aware of the problem as early as October 2014.

### **Additional Reading: Long Island Laundromats Tested For Water Contamination.**

12-TV Long Island, NY (1/30, 10:40 p.m. EST) reported, "The DEC is monitoring several laundromats here on the island. The issue is dioxane, which has been linked to laundry detergents and has been found in Long Island's water supply. The EPA says dioxane is most likely a carcinogen. Under the new program, 3 laundromats will be tested for the chemical."

### **Additional Reading: Whidbey Island Water Contamination Second Round Test.**

KIRO-TV Seattle (1/30, 9:17 p.m. EST) reported, "The 2nd round of water tests is underway always the Navy looks for a potentially dangerous chemical on Whidbey Island. Eight wells tested above EPA recommendations for a chemical used in firefighting foam. The Navy is providing drinking water for people impacted by contamination. The 2nd round of tests will expand the area by about a half mile."

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Bulletin  
INTELLIGENCE

Online version available at [epa.bulletinintelligence.com](http://epa.bulletinintelligence.com)

TO: ADMINISTRATOR AND SENIOR EXECUTIVES  
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**President Trump's Former EPA Lead Wants To Cut Agency Workforce By Half.** The Washington Post (1/30, Davidson) reports that former EPA transition lead Myron Ebell wants a two-thirds reduction in the EPA workforce down to 5,000 over the next four years along with a major budget reduction. "My own personal view is that the EPA would be better served if it were a much leaner organization that had substantial cuts," he said in an interview, emphasizing that his statements no longer represent the Trump administration.

The Salt Lake (UT) Tribune (1/30) reports that Ebell's views are worth noting because "they seem in line with plans by Trump and congressional Republicans to cut domestic spending." Moreover, his selection as head of the EPA transition team "was an indication of the agency's likely direction under Trump."

**Trump's Former Adviser Calls For Overhaul Of Endangered Species Act.** The Independent (UK) (1/30, Batchelor) reports that "a senior member of Donald Trump's now-defunct transition team has called for the US Endangered Species Act to be drastically watered down, claiming it doesn't actually protect wildlife." Myron Ebell, "who led a team tasked by the Republican billionaire with drafting an action plan to overhaul the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), said the legislation was being used as a 'political weapon' and many of its policies should be scrapped." Speaking in London on Monday, Ebell said: "The endangered species act doesn't do much for protecting endangered wildlife, but it does a huge amount to control private property land use, and it is enforced very selectively, so that some landowners are not affected but people with exactly the same habitat, their use is limited or eliminated." He continued, "It is a political weapon and I am very

interested in reforming, and I don't know if we will see that any time in the next decade, but I hope so."

## **Additional Reading.**

- **Leaked EPA Memo: Not Even The EPA Knows What's Going On With The EPA.** Popular Science. (1/30)
- **EPA Transition Team Tells Staff Not To Believe What They See In The News** . Vice. (1/30)

## **PESTICIDES:**

**California One Step Closer To Adding Cancer Warning To Roundup.** The AP (1/30) reports that a judge tentatively ruled on Friday that California can become the first state to require Monsanto to label its popular weed-killer Roundup as a "possible cancer threat." The ruling remains contentious, as the EPA has not restricted the main ingredient in Roundup, glyphosate, which it says has "low toxicity."

## **RULES/REGULATIONS/POLICY:**

**Experts: SCOTUS Decision On EPA Rule Set Precedent That May Challenge Trump's Border Wall.** Greenwire (1/30) reports a 2015 Supreme Court decision that upended the Obama administration's mercury standards for power plants "will hinder President Trump's grand plans to build a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border, legal experts say." In *Michigan v. EPA*, the high court ruled 5-4 that EPA failed to consider regulatory costs associated with the rule. Opponents of Trump's wall "could argue that the administration must show the project's final benefits outweigh its costs."

**Trump Orders Elimination Of Two Regulations For Every New One.** USA Today (1/30, Korte) reports that President Trump on Monday signed an executive action he said will "knock out two regulations for every new regulation" federal agencies adopt. Trump called the action "the largest cut by far, in terms of regulation," in history and said the policy was targeted at small business. Trump said, "There will be regulation, there will be control, but there will be normalized control where you can open your business and expand your business." USA Today adds that directive's text "was not immediately available, and it was unclear how the two-for-one mechanism would work." Reuters (1/30, Rascoe) says Trump's action "will prepare a process for the White House to set an annual cap on the cost of new regulations." For the remainder of the fiscal year, "the cap will require that the cost of any additional regulations be completely offset by undoing existing rules." Trump tweeted, "The American

dream is back. We're going to create an environment for small business like we haven't had in many, many decades!" He re-tweeted the post on the @POTUS Twitter account.

While a Wall Street Journal (1/30) editorial praises the order, arguing that it will it could lead to job creation and new investment, a number of reports highlights the difficulty Trump may face in putting it into action. For example, Politico (1/30, Restuccia) said that while Trump's aides cast the move as "the most significant regulatory reform effort in decades," implementing it "isn't as simple as Trump's flashy 'one in, two out' slogan suggests." According to Politico, the order "could take months, if not years, to implement and likely faces costly court challenges." Bloomberg Politics (1/30, Dlouhy) similarly says that "fulfilling the promise...may prove more difficult than signing an order." Eliminating a regulation "involves months of work that can include vetting multiple rule drafts and reacting to thousands or even millions of comments from industries, trade groups and individuals." Moreover, the process "can be challenged with a lawsuit by aggrieved parties."

## **WATER:**

### **Flint Residents File \$722.4 Million Class-Action Lawsuit Against EPA.**

The Detroit News (1/30, Lynch) reports more than 1,700 Flint residents are seeking \$722.4 million in damages in a class-action lawsuit against the EPA "for the 'mishandling' of the city's water crisis." The agency "failed to respond to an administrative claim filed last year," which allowed the lawsuit to be filed. In it, residents argue that the EPA "failed to follow several specific agency mandates and directives governing its conduct" in Flint, which resulted in additional harm to residents. MLive (MI) (1/30, Acosta) reports the charges include "failure to take mandatory actions required by the Safe Drinking Water Act, failing to undertake a timely investigation and failing to warn the public of environmental risks to public health," and the lawsuit alleges that the EPA was aware of the problem as early as October 2014.

### **Additional Reading: Long Island Laundromats Tested For Water Contamination.**

12-TV Long Island, NY (1/30, 10:40 p.m. EST) reported, "The DEC is monitoring several laundromats here on the island. The issue is dioxane, which has been linked to laundry detergents and has been found in Long Island's water supply. The EPA says dioxane is most likely a carcinogen. Under the new program, 3 laundromats will be tested for the chemical."

### **Additional Reading: Whidbey Island Water Contamination Second Round Test.**

KIRO-TV Seattle (1/30, 9:17 p.m. EST) reported, "The 2nd round of water tests is underway always the Navy looks for a potentially dangerous chemical on Whidbey Island. Eight

wells tested above EPA recommendations for a chemical used in firefighting foam. The Navy is providing drinking water for people impacted by contamination. The 2nd round of tests will expand the area by about a half mile."

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Message

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**From:** Ex. 6  
**Sent:** 6/14/2017 10:16:26 PM  
**To:** Munoz, Charles [munoz.charles@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** Ex. 6  
**Attachments:** LeonardLeoOpenRemarks2011.doc; USPSMauldinGovBarnett2010.doc; Chertoffbooksummary.docx; gepadirondacks[2].pdf; LIBENRESUME2017.pdf

Dear Mr. Munoz,

Thank you for taking my call a few minutes ago.

A conservative Republican, Phi Beta Kappa Cornell grad, and strong supporter of the Administration, I am very interested in serving under Administrator Pruitt at the EPA in a speech writing or related capacity.

I've had more than two decades of experience drafting speeches, op-eds, and other material, and providing communications counsel to top-level leaders, including the Federalist Society's **Leonard Leo** when he chaired the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF), U.S. Homeland Security Secretary **Michael Chertoff**, N.Y. Governor **George Pataki**, an acting governor of New Jersey, the Postmaster General of the United States, the CFO of a Fortune 100 energy company, the president of a financial trade association, and the founding partner of a New York-headquartered law firm.

I also helped Secretary Chertoff write a book and secured its publication by University of Pennsylvania Press.

As Governor Pataki's speechwriter, I wrote on a number of issues, including those pertaining to the environment. He advocated a balanced approach and our speeches countered the notion that responsible environmental stewardship requires accepting limits to economic growth and development.

As Secretary Chertoff's speechwriter, I articulated a risk management approach to homeland security which I believe has powerful application to environmental issues as well. I strongly embrace President Trump's and Administrator Pruitt's reasoning and stance regarding the Paris climate accord as a fine example of successfully applying risk management analysis to environmental concerns.

Besides writing speeches, I've also written and placed op-eds and lengthier pieces in more than 100 publications, such as the Wall Street Journal, Investor's Business Daily, L.A. Times, USA Today, Washington Post, Washington Times, Baltimore Sun, Houston Chronicle, CNN, Miami Herald, Tampa Bay Times, Seattle Times, Philadelphia Inquirer, US News & World Report, Harvard Journal of Law and Public Policy, Foreign Affairs, and other outlets, and remarks by various leaders in Vital Speeches of the Day and Vital Speeches International.

I'm sending you a number of my writing samples as well as my resume.

The best ways to reach me are through email or at Ex. 6

I would delighted to speak with you further whenever you deem it appropriate.

I hope to hear from you soon.

Sincerely,

Ex. 6

Message

---

**From:** Ex. 6  
**Sent:** 6/7/2017 5:26:45 PM  
**To:** Munoz, Charles [munoz.charles@epa.gov]  
**Subject:** Fwd: Richard Rahn "The Real Deniers" The Washington Times

Dear Mr. Munoz,

I wrote you after we visited, but did not hear back from you. Did you receive my message OK?

After the events of the Paris Treaty withdrawal, I want to confirm that I very much want to work with you and Mr. Pruitt. I could be so much help there, in so many aspects. There are so many arguments that would resonate with the average person, if we could get them distributed. Of course, Mr. Pruitt is very forceful and articulate, but I could augment his efforts in many ways.

The liberal press screams about the climate, yet our argument that would best resonate is that Obama made a terrible treaty. Bad for the taxpayers, bad for the environment. Usually, no agreement is better than a bad one! That is the case here.

I again want to reiterate my desire to work there in any capacity you desire. Especially, you mention the DAA for international, intergovernmental, etc. On the other hand, if you do not feel that you will ever imagine a place for me there, please tell me so, and I will stop bothering you.

On a slightly different subject, Dr. Rahn is one of my best and oldest friends. He used to be the chief economist for the US Chamber of Commerce. I thought you might like to see the article he wrote last week.

Sincerely,

Ex. 6

----- Forwarded Message -----

**Subject:** Richard Rahn "The Real Deniers" The Washington Times

**Date:** Tue, 6 Jun 2017 08:14:34 -0400

**From:** Richard Rahn's Office <Ex. 6>

The Washington Times

[www.washingtontimes.com](http://www.washingtontimes.com)

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The Real Deniers



## ELITES DISMISS THE COSTS OF THEIR CLIMATE POLICIES BORNE BY THE LESS FORTUNATE

No one knows what is going to happen 100 years from now — what problems human beings will face and what advances they'll make. Are you willing to double your electrical bill — to European rates — to reduce global temperatures by two-tenths of 1 degree 100 years from now?

Are you aware that England has only been an island for about 9,000 years or so? Up until the end of the last ice age, our ancestors could walk from France — which they can, in theory, again do, thanks to the Chunnel. A hundred years ago, air conditioning was almost non-existent. Now we have huge, rich cities such as Singapore, Panama City and even Miami, thriving in the tropics, because air conditioning has made them very livable all year around. A hundred years ago, antibiotics had not been invented, nor had the semiconductor, let alone the smartphone and iPad.

At the present, we do not know how to cost-effectively reduce many carbon-dioxide emissions, but we do know how to adapt to slowly rising sea levels and slightly warmer temperatures. Sea levels have been rising since the end of the last ice age, and there is no evidence that this rate of rise has increased during the past half-century — and mankind has adapted just fine. Despite rising sea levels, the island of Manhattan has grown in size over the last four centuries — because it makes economic sense to create landfills.

It is odd that many in the media and “public intellectuals” call people climate deniers who merely want to have a civil discussion about the rate of climate change and how much is caused by man — while, at the same time, being in deep denial about the real costs, particularly to the poor, of many of their proposed solutions.

There was predictable outrage this past week when President Trump withdrew the United States from the Paris Climate Agreement. The agreement had the goal of reducing the Earth's temperature by about less than two-tenths of a degree within a hundred years, primarily by reducing carbon-dioxide emissions. Setting aside the issue of whether the required actions by countries would actually achieve the temperature reduction goal, what do you think the probability is that all the countries of the world will actually do what they say they will do, when the required (but voluntary and nonenforceable) actions conflict with domestic political realities?

Air pollution is a real problem in China — something many of us have experienced firsthand. An agreement that gives China a free pass until 2030, while putting U.S. workers and competitiveness at an artificial disadvantage, makes no sense for the United States and the rest of the world.

Rich liberals, like John Kerry and Leonardo DiCaprio, predicted dire consequences (more children with breathing problems) while, of course, conveniently ignoring the hypocrisy of the huge carbon footprint from their private jets and multiple large homes. These folks probably have no idea what they pay for electricity because it does not affect their lifestyles — so they can afford to be moralistic.

Those climate scientists and others in universities who enjoy lucrative government contracts and grants to deal with real or imaginary problems, of course, were unhappy with the president, because his decision might impose a real cost to many of them. (Most of these folks do not think about who pays for their grants and the costs to taxpayers and workers of their climate action demands.) Many corporate types were unhappy because their companies receive large government subsidies or contracts to work on alternative energy projects — most notably, Elon Musk, whose Tesla would not exist without government subsidies. Rich TV news anchors and other liberal media types who depend on a constant flow of bad news and crisis stories (again, real or imaginary) to maintain ratings also have a self-interest in scaremongering. Many in the bigger government political class who want more power over other people's lives, such as Gov. Jerry Brown of California, were in full attack mode.

Mr. Brown even went so far as to claim that the president's decision would kill children — where a more unbiased analysis is likely to show just the opposite. Higher energy costs and higher taxes reduce job creation, and real wages and economic growth — all of which hurt children (and everyone else) and slow medical advances.

Those who have more limited incomes or job prospects know that higher electricity and other energy prices cause real pain, so they tended to applaud the president's climate decision. Those who have an understanding of business economics — and are not in denial about a world in which there are real tradeoffs and real costs to actions that may or may not yield future benefits — also were likely to have supported the president. And finally, also those who revere liberty and understand that markets are more likely to solve climate (and other) problems — than arrogant, power-seeking, self-proclaimed experts and bureaucrats.

A hundred years from now, mankind will have far more wealth and knowledge about how to deal with climate change than it has now. The greatest legacy the current generation can bequeath to future generations is a prosperous world so there will be enough wealth to invest in new technologies to solve such problems.

*Richard W. Rahn is chairman of Improbable Success Productions and on the board of the American Council for Capital Formation*

<http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2017/jun/5/climate-change-lobby-are-the-real-deniers/>

**From:** Bulletin Intelligence [epa@bulletinintelligence.com]  
**Sent:** 3/10/2017 12:02:38 PM  
**To:** epa@BulletinIntelligence.com  
**Subject:** EPA Daily News Briefing for Friday, March 10, 2017  
**Attachments:** epaNewsBriefing170310.doc

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## EPA Daily News Briefing

Bulletin  
INTELLIGENCE

**TO: ADMINISTRATOR AND SENIOR EXECUTIVES**

**DATE: FRIDAY, MARCH 10, 2017 7:00 AM EST**

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## **ADMINISTRATOR**

### **Pruitt: CO2 Not A "Primary Contributor" To Global Warming.**

Coverage of EPA Administrator Pruitt's comments in an interview with [CNBC's Squawk Box](#) during which he claimed that carbon dioxide is not the "primary contributor" to global warming is almost universally negative, saying his statement is at odds with scientific consensus on the matter as well as the EPA's own website.

The [AP](#) (3/9, Daly) reports that Pruitt "said measuring the effect of human activity on the climate is 'very challenging' and that 'there's tremendous disagreement about the degree of impact' of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases." Pruitt added, "So, no, I would not agree that (carbon dioxide) is a primary contributor to the global warming that we see." The AP says that view "is at odds with mainstream climate science, including NASA and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration," and adds that environmental groups "seized on Pruitt's comments as evidence he is unfit for the office he holds."

In a brief report, [ABC World News Tonight](#) (3/9, story 7, 0:35, Muir) described Pruitt as "challenging the widely-held belief that carbon dioxide from human activity is a major cause of climate change" and "disputing the consensus of most of the scientists around the world, and the EPA itself under several Administrations now." On the [CBS Evening News](#) (3/9, story 6, 1:55, Pelley), Chip Reid said Pruitt "dropped a verbal bomb on the environmental community," while [Reuters](#) (3/9, Chiacu, Volcovici) calls Pruitt "a climate change denier" and reports that scientists criticized his statement, "saying it ignores a large body of evidence collected over decades that shows fossil fuel burning as the main factor in climate change." Meanwhile, the [Daily Caller](#) (3/9, Bastasch) argues that Pruitt's comments "are no different than what he's been saying for a long time," and criticizes the media for "com[ing] out guns blazing when Pruitt says the same thing he's been on record saying for months."

The [Washington Post](#) (3/9, Mooney) calls the comment one of Pruitt's "strongest statements yet rejecting the science of human-caused climate change." The Post adds that the statements "fly in the face of the international scientific consensus on climate change" and contradict the EPA's "Climate Change" website, which states: "Research indicates that natural causes do not explain most observed warming, especially warming since the mid-20th Century. Rather, it is extremely likely that human activities have been the dominant cause of that warming." The [New York Times](#) (3/9, DAVENPORT) quotes a climate researcher at the Energy Department's Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, who said flatly, "Mr. Pruitt is wrong." Noting that the "scientific community has studied this issue for decades," he concluded "a large human influence on global climate is the best explanation for the warming we've measured and monitored."

[Bloomberg BNA](#) (3/9, Childers) reports on concerns that the EPA under Scott Pruitt's leadership could target the agency's endangerment finding, which in 2009 determined carbon dioxide and five other greenhouse gases "pose a risk to the environment and human health." The [New York Post](#) (3/9, Moore) reports that Pruitt "suggested Congress should take another look at"

the finding. Said Pruitt, "I think all those things need to be addressed as we go forward but not least of which is the response by the legislative branch with respect to the issue."

In an analysis for the Washington Post (3/9, Bump), Philip Bump calls the exchange during the CNBC interview "truly remarkable," and argues that there is a "real risk" that "a Pruitt-led EPA will bury accurate information about the link between carbon dioxide emissions and warming for the benefit of the American fossil fuel industry." A Washington Post (3/9) editorial says Pruitt's statement does not represent "'skepticism,' a term that implies reasonable doubt in the face of inadequate information." Rather, it is "denial of a scientific consensus built on ample evidence that gets stronger every year, and it is denial of Mr. Pruitt's essential responsibilities as the nation's chief environmental watchdog."

On CNN's Situation Room (3/9), Sen. Bernie Sanders called Pruitt's comments "pathetic. The debate is over." Sanders added that the fact that the head of the EPA "denies that in the face of overwhelming scientific evidence is not only sad but a threat to the well-being of this country and the world."

### **EPA Chief Questions Agency's Authority To Regulate Carbon Emissions.**

The Wall Street Journal (3/9, Matthews, Ailworth) reports that Pruitt also questioned the EPA's legal right to regulate carbon dioxide emissions. In a speech to energy executives at CERAWeeK on Thursday, Pruitt said utilities should be able to choose which type of fuels they want to burn without a dictate from regulators mandating traditional versus renewable use. He also stressed the need for more cooperation between the EPA and state, and derided previous top-down efforts to regulate air and water emissions.

Pruitt also told attendants at CERAWeeK conference, "the future ain't what it used to be at the EPA," according to E&E Publishing. (3/9) He told energy leaders that they should be optimistic about the Trump administration's environmental policy.

### **Pruitt Calls Paris Climate Agreement A "Bad Deal."**

The Daily Caller (3/9, Bastasch) reports that EPA Administrator also told CNBC's "Squawk Box" that he thought the Paris Climate agreement was a "bad deal" that "should have been treated as a treaty, should have gone through senate confirmation." Pruitt's comments are the "first time a top Trump administration official has weighed in on the agreement since January."

### **Pruitt Met With NAM On Tuesday.**

Politico Morning Energy (3/8) reports EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt "met with the National Association of Manufacturers Tuesday" in a private meeting. EPA tweeted "that Pruitt 'shared about his vision of a smarter EPA' while NAM CEO Jay Timmons said both were working to 'rethink red tape.'"

### **Additional Reading.**

- *EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt Is Dangerous.* GQ. (3/9, Willis)

## **AIR**

### **Additional Reading.**

- *Bill Could Make It Even Harder To Oppose TCEQ Air Quality Permits.* Houston Press. (3/9)

## **BROWNFIELDS/SUPERFUND/OTHER CLEANUPS**

### **Additional Reading.**

- *Fire At Former Lawrence Aviation, A Superfund Site, Authorities Say.* Newsday (NY). (3/10)

## **BUDGET**

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### **Daily Caller Scorns Outcry Over EPA Budgets.**

An article in the Daily Caller (3/9, Treacher) sarcastically laments deep cuts in the EPA budget that are expected to close down the agency's environmental justice program.

### **Additional Reading.**

- *Concerns About Reported Plans To Eliminate 97% Of Great Lakes Restoration Initiative's Annual Budget.* Cleveland Plain Dealer. (3/9)

## **OTHER NEWS**

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### **House Science Committee Approves Bills Addressing EPA Scientific Research.**

The Hill (3/9, Cama, Henry) reports the House Science Committee on Thursday approved three pieces of legislation "overhauling the way the EPA conducts its scientific research." A bill authored by Rep. Lamar Smith "would require the EPA to release the scientific data it uses to write regulation." The bill "is designed to cut down on what he and Republicans call 'secret science' coming from the agency." The "Morning Energy" blog of Politico (3/9) previewed the committee hearing yesterday morning.

### **Head Of EPA's Office Of Environmental Justice Resigns.**

The Washington Post (3/9, Dennis) reports that Mustafa Ali, the head of the EPA's office of environmental justice has resigned "as the White House is seeking to close his office." In a letter to Pruitt, Ali wrote "that a recent budget proposal to end its work would harm the people who most rely on the EPA."

E&E Publishing (3/9) reports that in an interview, Ali said he couldn't "in good conscience be supportive" of the Trump administration's agenda. CNN International (3/9, Marsh) also provides coverage.

### **EPA Inspector General To Investigate Travel Program.**

E&E Publishing (3/9, Bogardus) reports EPA's inspector general announced Thursday that it will investigate possible "illegal, improper or erroneous purchases and payments" within EPA regarding its travel card program.

### **Additional Reading.**

- *Now Under Attack, EPA's Work On Climate Change Has Been Going On For Decades.* The Conversation (US). (3/9)
- *Why EPA's Science And Tech Office No Longer Has 'Science' In Its Mission.* Christian Science Monitor. (3/9)

## **RULES/REGULATIONS/POLICY**

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### **California Gears Up For Potential Legal Battle Over Auto Emission Standards.**

McClatchy (3/9, Cockerham) reports that the while it initially seemed imminent that the EPA could act to revoke California's waiver to impose its own stricter auto emission standards, "now there is some uncertainty, in part because the action would set up a legal showdown with California that President Donald Trump could lose." California has "signaled its willingness to fight Trump in court" by hiring former Attorney General Eric Holder. Sen. Dianne Feinstein and ten other senators have also written to Secretary Pruitt urging him to keep auto pollution standards in place.

### **Administration Officials Consider Weakening Climate Pledge But Keeping Paris Accord.**

Politico (3/9, Restuccia) reports multiple sources say that Administration officials are considering "weakening former President Barack Obama's pledge to reduce" greenhouse gas emission while remaining within the Paris climate change agreement, but "the plan has not yet won the buy-in of key Trump aides" or the President. Politico says that maintaining part of the pact "would be a victory for" the president's daughter Ivanka and his son-in-law Jared Kushner, as well as other advisers concerned "that withdrawing altogether would greatly damage U.S. diplomatic relations with other countries." However, Politico adds that "weakening Obama's pledge would probably frustrate many American allies," and Trump chief strategist Steve Bannon is believed to favor withdrawing from the agreement.

*Shultz, Baker Dispute WSJournal Editorial On Carbon Tax.* In a letter to the editor of the Wall Street Journal (3/9), George Shultz and James Baker – each a former secretary of the Treasury and of the State Department – blast the paper's Feb. 25 editorial "The Carbon Tax Chimera," calling its concerns speculative or wrong. The authors note that a levy on carbon whose revenue would be returned to Americans through a dividend is supported by some of the industries that would pay the tax. Shultz and Baker deny the tax would be regressive, and deny it taxes fossil fuels, adding that if they can be made to emit less carbon, fossil fuel use could rise. The authors also dispute that Canada and Mexico would take exception to the tax, as both have some forms of it.

### **Pruitt Says Announcement On Fuel Economy Standards Coming "Very Soon."**

Reuters (3/9) reports that on Thursday, EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt said he would reduce regulatory uncertainty on fuel efficiency standards by releasing an announcement "very soon." The New York Daily News (3/9, Campbell) reports that regarding the fuel economy standards, he commented, "What was concerning to me and, I think, concerning to the president is how that process occurred, what comments were taken through the end of last year and within 10 days they celebrated their decision to say those standards should be adopted or continued and increased. So that's something we're going to address very, very soon."

### **Source: Trump To Order Repeal Of Clean Power Plan Without Replacement.**

ClimateWire (3/9, Lehmann) reports that a source says the White House intends to repeal the EPA's Clean Power Plan without providing a replacement. An executive order expected next week will instruct DOJ to effectively withdraw its legal defense of the CPP, freezing the case and preventing a federal court from issuing an opinion this spring. Some legal experts say the case could continue if defense of the rule is taken up by states or other groups. The source said the there is no guarantee the circuit court will not issue an opinion. ClimateWire reports withdrawing the CPP "raises questions about whether EPA would fail to satisfy legal requirements to regulate carbon dioxide and other climate pollutants" as the Supreme Court has obliged the EPA to do.

broadcasts, social-media platforms and additional forms of open-source data. Sources for Bulletin Intelligence audience-size estimates include Scarborough, GfK MRI, comScore, Nielsen, and the Audit Bureau of Circulation. Services that include Twitter data are governed by Twitters' terms of use. Services that include Factiva content are governed by Factiva's terms of use. The EPA Daily News Briefing is published five days a week by Bulletin Intelligence, which creates custom briefings for government and corporate leaders. We can be found on the Web at BulletinIntelligence.com, or called at (703) 483-6100.





# EPA Daily News Briefing

Bulletin  
INTELLIGENCE

Online version available at [epa.bulletinintelligence.com](http://epa.bulletinintelligence.com)

TO: ADMINISTRATOR AND SENIOR EXECUTIVES

DATE: FRIDAY, MARCH 10, 2017 7:00 AM EST

## TODAY'S EDITION

### Administrator

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## ADMINISTRATOR:

### Pruitt: CO2 Not A "Primary Contributor" To Global Warming.

Coverage of EPA Administrator Pruitt's comments in an interview with [CNBC's Squawk Box](#) during which he claimed that carbon dioxide is not the "primary contributor" to global warming is almost universally negative, saying his statement is at odds with scientific consensus on the matter as well as the EPA's own website.

The [AP](#) (3/9, Daly) reports that Pruitt "said measuring the effect of human activity on the climate is 'very challenging' and that 'there's tremendous disagreement about the degree of impact' of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases."

Pruitt added, "So, no, I would not agree that (carbon dioxide) is a primary contributor to the global warming that we see." The AP says that view "is at odds with mainstream climate science, including NASA and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration," and adds that environmental groups "seized on Pruitt's comments as evidence he is unfit for the office he holds."

In a brief report, [ABC World News Tonight](#) (3/9, story 7, 0:35, Muir) described Pruitt as "challenging the widely-held belief that carbon dioxide from human activity is a major cause of climate change" and "disputing the consensus of most of the scientists around the world, and the EPA itself under several Administrations now." On the [CBS Evening News](#) (3/9, story 6, 1:55, Pelley), Chip Reid said Pruitt "dropped a verbal bomb on the environmental community,"

while Reuters (3/9, Chiacu, Volcovici) calls Pruitt “a climate change denier” and reports that scientists criticized his statement, “saying it ignores a large body of evidence collected over decades that shows fossil fuel burning as the main factor in climate change.” Meanwhile, the Daily Caller (3/9, Bastasch) argues that Pruitt’s comments “are no different than what he’s been saying for a long time,” and criticizes the media for “com[ing] out guns blazing when Pruitt says the same thing he’s been on record saying for months.”

The Washington Post (3/9, Mooney) calls the comment one of Pruitt’s “strongest statements yet rejecting the science of human-caused climate change.” The Post adds that the statements “fly in the face of the international scientific consensus on climate change” and contradict the EPA’s “Climate Change” website, which states: “Research indicates that natural causes do not explain most observed warming, especially warming since the mid-20th Century. Rather, it is extremely likely that human activities have been the dominant cause of that warming.” The New York Times (3/9, DAVENPORT) quotes a climate researcher at the Energy Department’s Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, who said flatly, “Mr. Pruitt is wrong.” Noting that the “scientific community has studied this issue for decades,” he concluded “a large human influence on global climate is the best explanation for the warming we’ve measured and monitored.”

Bloomberg BNA (3/9, Childers) reports on concerns that the EPA under Scott Pruitt’s leadership could target the agency’s endangerment finding, which in 2009 determined carbon dioxide and five other greenhouse gases “pose a risk to the environment and human health.” The New York Post (3/9, Moore) reports that Pruitt “suggested Congress should take another look at” the finding. Said Pruitt, “I think all those things need to be addressed as we go forward but not least of which is the response by the legislative branch with respect to the issue.”

In an analysis for the Washington Post (3/9, Bump), Philip Bump calls the exchange during the CNBC interview “truly remarkable,” and argues that there is a “real risk” that “a Pruitt-led EPA will bury accurate information about the link between carbon dioxide emissions and warming for the benefit of the American fossil fuel industry.” A Washington Post (3/9) editorial says Pruitt’s statement does not represent “skepticism,” a term that implies reasonable doubt in the face of inadequate information. Rather, it is “denial of a scientific consensus built on ample evidence that gets stronger every year, and it is denial of Mr. Pruitt’s essential responsibilities as the nation’s chief environmental watchdog.”

On CNN’s Situation Room (3/9), Sen. Bernie Sanders called Pruitt’s comments “pathetic. The debate is over.” Sanders added that the fact that the head of the EPA “denies that in the face of overwhelming scientific evidence is not only sad but a threat to the well-being of this country and the world.”

**EPA Chief Questions Agency’s Authority To Regulate Carbon Emissions.** The Wall Street Journal (3/9, Matthews, Ailworth) reports that Pruitt also questioned the EPA’s legal right to regulate carbon dioxide emissions. In a speech to energy executives at CERAAweek on Thursday, Pruitt said utilities should be able to choose which type of fuels they want to burn without a dictate from regulators mandating traditional versus renewable use. He also stressed the need for more cooperation between the EPA and state, and derided previous top-down efforts to regulate air and water emissions.

Pruitt also told attendants at CERAAweek conference, “the future ain’t what it used to be at the EPA,” according to E&E Publishing. (3/9) He told energy leaders that they should be optimistic about the Trump administration’s environmental policy.

**Pruitt Calls Paris Climate Agreement A “Bad Deal.”** The Daily Caller (3/9, Bastasch) reports that EPA Administrator also told CNBC’s “Squawk Box” that he thought the Paris Climate agreement was a “bad deal” that “should have been treated as a treaty, should have gone through senate confirmation.” Pruitt’s comments are the “first time a top Trump administration official has weighed in on the agreement since January.”

**Pruitt Met With NAM On Tuesday.** Politico Morning Energy (3/8) reports EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt “met with the National Association of Manufacturers Tuesday” in a private meeting. EPA tweeted “that Pruitt ‘shared about his vision of a smarter EPA’ while NAM CEO Jay Timmons said both were working to ‘rethink red tape.’”

### **Additional Reading.**

- *EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt Is Dangerous.* GQ. (3/9, Willis)

## **AIR:**

### **Additional Reading.**

- *Bill Could Make It Even Harder To Oppose TCEQ Air Quality Permits.* Houston Press. (3/9)

## **BROWNFIELDS/SUPERFUND/OTHER CLEANUPS:**

### **Additional Reading.**

- *Fire At Former Lawrence Aviation, A Superfund Site, Authorities Say.* Newsday (NY). (3/10)

## **BUDGET:**

### **Daily Caller Scorns Outcry Over EPA Budgets.**

An article in the Daily Caller (3/9, Treacher) sarcastically laments deep cuts in the EPA budget that are expected to close down the agency's environmental justice program.

### **Additional Reading.**

- *Concerns About Reported Plans To Eliminate 97% Of Great Lakes Restoration Initiative's Annual Budget.* Cleveland Plain Dealer. (3/9)

## **OTHER NEWS:**

### **House Science Committee Approves Bills Addressing EPA Scientific Research.**

The Hill (3/9, Cama, Henry) reports the House Science Committee on Thursday approved three pieces of legislation "overhauling the way the EPA conducts its scientific research." A bill authored by Rep. Lamar Smith "would require the EPA to release the scientific data it uses to write regulation." The bill "is designed to cut down on what he and Republicans call 'secret science' coming from the agency." The "Morning Energy" blog of Politico (3/9) previewed the committee hearing yesterday morning.

**Head Of EPA's Office Of Environmental Justice Resigns.** The Washington Post (3/9, Dennis) reports that Mustafa Ali, the head of the EPA's office of environmental justice has resigned "as the White House is seeking to close his office." In a letter to Pruitt, Ali wrote "that a recent budget proposal to end its work would harm the people who most rely on the EPA."

E&E Publishing (3/9) reports that in an interview, Ali said he couldn't "in good conscience be supportive" of the Trump administration's agenda. CNN International (3/9, Marsh) also provides coverage.

### **EPA Inspector General To Investigate Travel Program.**

E&E Publishing (3/9, Bogardus) reports EPA's inspector general announced Thursday that it will investigate possible "illegal, improper or erroneous purchases and payments" within EPA regarding its travel card program.

### **Additional Reading.**

- *Now Under Attack, EPA's Work On Climate Change Has Been Going On For Decades.* The Conversation (US). (3/9)
- *Why EPA's Science And Tech Office No Longer Has 'Science' In Its Mission.* Christian Science Monitor. (3/9)

## **RULES/REGULATIONS/POLICY:**

### **California Gears Up For Potential Legal Battle Over Auto Emission Standards.**

McClatchy (3/9, Cockerham) reports that while it initially seemed imminent that the EPA could act to revoke California's waiver to impose its own stricter auto emission standards, "now there is some uncertainty, in part because the action would set up a legal showdown with California that President Donald Trump could lose." California has "signaled its willingness to fight Trump in court" by hiring former Attorney General Eric Holder. Sen. Dianne Feinstein and ten other senators have also written to Secretary Pruitt urging him to keep auto pollution standards in place.

### **Administration Officials Consider Weakening Climate Pledge But Keeping Paris Accord.**

Politico (3/9, Restuccia) reports multiple sources say that Administration officials are considering "weakening former President Barack Obama's pledge to reduce" greenhouse gas emission while remaining within the Paris climate change agreement, but "the plan has not yet won the buy-in of key Trump aides" or the President. Politico says that maintaining part of the pact "would be a victory for" the president's daughter Ivanka and his son-in-law Jared Kushner, as well as other advisers concerned "that withdrawing altogether would greatly damage U.S. diplomatic relations with other countries." However, Politico adds that "weakening Obama's pledge would probably frustrate many American allies," and Trump chief strategist Steve Bannon is believed to favor withdrawing from the agreement.

*Shultz, Baker Dispute WSJ Editorial On Carbon Tax.* In a letter to the editor of the Wall Street Journal (3/9), George Shultz and James Baker – each a former secretary of the Treasury and of the State Department – blast the paper's Feb. 25 editorial "The Carbon Tax Chimera," calling its concerns speculative or wrong. The authors note that a levy on carbon whose revenue would be returned to Americans through a dividend is supported by some of the industries that would pay the tax. Shultz and Baker deny the tax would be regressive, and deny it taxes fossil fuels, adding that if they can be made to emit less carbon, fossil fuel use could rise. The authors also dispute that Canada and Mexico would take exception to the tax, as both have some forms of it.

### **Pruitt Says Announcement On Fuel Economy Standards Coming "Very Soon."**

Reuters (3/9) reports that on Thursday, EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt said he would reduce regulatory uncertainty on fuel efficiency standards by releasing an announcement "very soon." The New York Daily News (3/9, Campbell) reports that regarding the fuel economy standards, he commented, "What was

concerning to me and, I think, concerning to the president is how that process occurred, what comments were taken through the end of last year and within 10 days they celebrated their decision to say those standards should be adopted or continued and increased. So that's something we're going to address very, very soon."

**Source: Trump To Order Repeal Of Clean Power Plan Without Replacement.** ClimateWire

(3/9, Lehmann) reports that a source says the White House intends to repeal the EPA's Clean Power Plan without providing a replacement. An executive order expected next week will instruct DOJ to effectively withdraw its legal defense of the CPP, freezing the case and preventing a federal court from issuing an opinion this spring. Some legal experts say the case could continue if defense of the rule is taken up by states or other groups. The source said there is no guarantee the circuit court will not issue an opinion. ClimateWire reports withdrawing the CPP "raises questions about whether EPA would fail to satisfy legal requirements to regulate carbon dioxide and other climate pollutants" as the Supreme Court has obliged the EPA to do.

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## EPA Daily News Briefing

Bulletin  
INTELLIGENCE

**TO: ADMINISTRATOR AND SENIOR EXECUTIVES**

**DATE: MONDAY, MARCH 6, 2017 7:00 AM EST**

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## ADMINISTRATOR

### EPA Withdraws Oil, Gas Methane Emission Data Request.

The [AP](#) (3/2, Daly) reported the Environmental Protection Agency "is withdrawing an Obama-era request that oil and natural gas companies provide information on methane emissions at oil and gas operations." EPA Administrator Pruitt said he "wants to assess the need for the information," adding that the change "will reduce burdens on businesses while we take a closer look at the need for additional information from this industry."

### EPA Chief To Give First Address To Industry At CERAWeek.

[Fuel Fix \(TX\)](#) (3/5, Hunn) reports that EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt will give his first public address to the oil and gas industry as a speaker at CERAWeek in Houston. The CERAWeek agenda describes his work examining water quality in the Illinois River and settling water rights disputes, suggesting that he will assume a "conciliatory" tone similar to that used in his speech to EPA employees two weeks ago.

### Pruitt Urged To Maintain Stance Against "Regulation-Through-Litigation."

[Orange County \(CA\) Register](#) (3/2, Shelley) columnist Susan Shelley describes lawsuits by environmental groups intended to force the federal government to make a speedier determination of the lesser prairie chicken's endangerment status as exactly what EPA Administration Scott Pruitt referred to when he pledged not to "sue-and-settle" and enable "regulation-through-litigation."

### Additional Reading.

- *McEachin: Scott Pruitt Will Harm The Chesapeake's Future.* [Hampton Roads \(VA\) Virginian-Pilot.](#) (3/5)

## AIR

### Southern California Officials Vote For Oil Refinery Pollution Plan.

The [Los Angeles Times](#) (3/3, Barboza) reported Southern California "officials voted Friday to impose tougher rules on oil refineries but rejected a proposal to regulate pollution from ports and warehouses." The plan "faces immediate obstacles because of its hefty price tag," requiring a "tenfold increase" of "cash incentives for cleaner vehicles to \$1 billion a year." The California Air

Resources Board will consider the plan next, after which it must be "approved by the EPA to become enforceable under the federal Clean Air Act."

## **BROWNFIELDS/SUPERFUND/OTHER CLEANUPS**

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### **Feds Approve New Bird Deterrent System For Toxic Berkeley Pit.**

The AP (3/3) reported that last November, nearly 4,000 migrating snow geese died when they flew into the toxic Berkeley Pit in Butte, Montana, which is part of the nation's largest Superfund site. Federal officials have approved a series of new bird deterrent measures meant "to prevent a repeat of last fall's mass bird deaths," including the use of strobe lights and remote-controlled boats to keep birds away from the pit.

## **BUDGET**

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### **EPA Draft Budget Details 25 Percent Cut, 3,000 Job Cuts.**

The AP (3/3, Flesher, Daly, Lucey) reports on a draft EPA budget proposal it obtained outlining a roughly 25 percent budget cut and 19 percent staff reduction, about 3,000 jobs. The EPA declined to comment, but in an internal memo obtained by the AP, Acting Assistant Administrator Donna Vizian said EPA leaders "will do everything in our power to protect our ability to support the mission of the agency." The draft proposal would cut the EPA budget from about \$8.2 billion to \$6.1 billion, including sharp reductions to the climate protection budget, Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, and environmental justice programs. The EPA's monitoring and compliance enforcement activities are "also targeted for steep spending rollbacks." Former EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy called the proposed budget "a fantasy" that ignores the EPA's mission to protect public health. Reuters (3/3, Gardner, Vollcovici) reported that President Trump has "vowed his planned overhaul of green regulation would not jeopardize America's water and air quality." However, the budget cuts would "cut deeply into programs like climate protection, environmental justice and enforcement."

E&E Publishing (3/3) reported that according to a source, yesterday "Pruitt made it clear that some of his budget priorities differ from the White House's draft."

Science Magazine (3/3, Cornwall) reported that the Office of Management and Budget argued the cuts are necessary "to help reduce the burden that EPA regulations place on industry and state and local governments." Meanwhile, a senior EPA official warned that if implemented, the cuts could cause EPA's research office to "implode."

## **ENERGY**

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### **Perry Vows To Support DOE Employees In First Address As Secretary.**

The Las Vegas Review-Journal (3/3, Martin) reported Energy Secretary Rick Perry gave his first speech to Department of Energy employees Friday. He "vowed...to be an advocate for the department," saying that DOE employees "have the ability to change the world." The Hill (3/3, Cama) reported Perry "told his new department Friday that he was awestruck at what its workers do," and made it clear that he wanted employees "to thrive in their missions, which include energy research and maintaining the nation's stockpile of nuclear weapons."

The Dallas (TX) Morning News (3/3, Benning, Bureau) also covered Perry's address, and details some of the secretary's current tasks including developing a budget and dealing with nuclear security.

## **Carper A Key Player On Environmental Issues.**

USA Today (3/3, King) profiles Delaware Sen. Tom Carper, the “normally collaborative” top Democrat on the Environment and Public Works Committee, who is being noted for “the ferocity of his opposition” to Scott Pruitt to lead the EPA. Carper’s performance “reassured environmental activists” who fretted after he replaced California Sen. Barbara Boxer on the panel. With Republicans holding 52 Senate seats, Carper is “a key player on environmental issues.” Carper says he is most concerned by the “weakening of power plant emission rules, a de-emphasis on combating climate change, and the increased threat of mercury,” USA Today reports.

## **Energy Consultant: Environmental Extremism Hurts Energy Development.**

In a Las Vegas Sun (3/4, Bakker) op-ed, strategic consultant Eliot Bakker criticized environmental activists who engage in “hysterics” even though “the consensus among industry experts is that opportunities for clean energy still abound under the” Trump Administration. He argued that Trump’s energy policies “aren’t that different from Barack Obama’s,” and warns that continued stonewalling of projects that were supported under the previous Administration will hurt the country’s energy future.

## **ENFORCEMENT**

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### **Pennsylvania DEP Proposes New Fees To Gain Funding.**

The Allentown (PA) Morning Call (3/3, Levy) reported that budget cuts to Pennsylvania’s Department of Environmental Protection have reached a “critical point,” according to the Citizens Advisory Council. The agency has proposed fee increases on industries it regulates to raise money needed to hire additional staff necessary to carry out the agency’s mission. The federal government has warned that if the state agency continues to be underfunded and understaffed, the U.S. EPA “could take enforcement duties away from Pennsylvania.”

## **OTHER NEWS**

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### **WHO Reports Suggests Pollution Kills 1.7 Million Children Each Year.**

The Washington Post (3/5, Naqvi) reports environmental pollution “is associated with more than one in four deaths among children younger than 5,” according to two World Health Organization reports. The WHO found that “weaker immune systems make children’s health more vulnerable to harmful effects of polluted environments,” and provided a breakdown of the 1.7 million children killed each year by pollution.

Reuters (3/5, Kelland) reports WHO public health expert Maria Neira “urged governments to do more to make all places safe for children,” adding that “investing in the removal of environmental risks to health, such as improving water quality or using cleaner fuels, will result in massive health benefits.”

***WPost Stresses Global Need For Environmental Enforcement Measures.*** In an editorial, the Washington Post (3/5) warns President Trump’s efforts to reduce Environmental Protection Agency staff and cut “superfluous” EPA programs, including “those addressing climate change,” will result in his Administration throwing “out only bathwater and no baby,” because ignoring present and future pollution challenges “ignores vast volumes of evidence on the ecological and human damage various types of pollution still cause.” The Post cites a recent study’s “finding that two major types of air pollution were associated with 4.2 million deaths in 2015,” with a disproportionate death toll in China and India. If developing nations rely too heavily



on “coal burning, people’s health will still be threatened,” the Post writes, and says these nations must grow their economies in ways that do not threaten air quality. The Post also says the negative impact of air pollution reinforces an “appreciation for effective environmental enforcement” in the US, and necessitates that world governments “press major developing nations on cross-border pollution matters.”

## **RULES/REGULATIONS/POLICY**

### **Administration Expected To Roll Back CAFE Standards In Coming Week.**

The New York Times (3/3, Davenport) reports Transportation Secretary Chao and EPA Administrator Pruitt are expected “as soon as Tuesday” to announce that the Administration “will immediately start to undo one of former President Barack Obama’s most significant environmental legacies,” the corporate average fuel economy standards. The Times says the White House could couple the announcement with a directive to Pruitt’s agency to start the work of undoing the Clean Power Plan. Aside from lifting the restrictions on carbon emissions from vehicles, changes to the CAFE standards “will also have a major effect on the United States auto industry,” which has told Trump’s Administration it finds the “technical requirements” of emissions reduction “too burdensome.” Reuters (3/3, Shepardson) reports that reopening a review of CAFE standards would come after automakers urged the Trump administration to reverse an Obama-era decision leaving them in place at roughly unchanged levels.

Citing multiple unnamed sources, the Wall Street Journal (3/4, Spector, Harder) reports the EPA is also examining the implications of stemming California’s waiver from the EPA to set its own vehicle greenhouse-gas emissions standards. The standards would remain in place while the review is underway.

The Washington Post (3/3, Eilperin, Dennis) reports the rumors of an imminent announcement on the matter is “the latest signal by the Trump administration that it is charting a new course on climate change.” The story reports that when EPA and NHTSA first wrote the rules five years ago, they “agreed to review the 2022-2025 standards,” but last December EPA found that no review was needed and “finalized the standards a week before Trump took office.” Bloomberg News (3/3, Beene) reports 18 executives from the auto industry wrote Trump “last month, asking him to reinstate the review of fuel economy regulations.”

*Average Fuel Economy For US Vehicles Went From 14 MPG In 1923 To 17.9 MPG In 2015.* The Christian Science Monitor (3/3, Read) reports that a study of average fuel economy data from 1923 to 2015 by University of Michigan researchers Michael Sivak and Brandon Schoettle resulted in findings that “are a little depressing.” The survey indicates that “in 1923, America’s fleet of cars, trucks, buses, and vans earned an average of 14 miles to the gallon” before dipping and “bottoming out at 11.9 miles per gallon in 1973.” That year brought the Oil Crisis, which forced up fuel economy to the point that “within 20 years, average fuel economy had regained a fair bit of ground, hitting 16.9 miles per gallon in 1991.” The survey finds, however, that since 1991, “improvement efforts have stalled,” with “the average fuel economy of vehicles registered in America [rising] just one mile per gallon – yes, one – hitting 17.9 in 2015.”

### **Trump Will Not Act On Paris Agreement Next Week.**

Politico (3/3, Restuccia) reported the White House “disputed a story published Thursday in The New York Times that said Trump hoped to announce his official stance on the Paris deal next week,” telling Politico that President Trump “has no plans to make a decision” then. Sources “cautioned that top White House advisers have not yet fleshed out a detailed position on the issue.” Bloomberg News (3/3, Ryan) reported clean energy advocates hope to influence Trump’s

climate policy with economic arguments. At a Friday conference in Chicago, environmentalists suggested Trump “may be swayed by the 360,000 jobs provided by wind and solar in the US last year.”

**WPost: Removing US From Paris Agreement Is An “Enormous” Error.** In an editorial, the Washington Post (3/4) warned that removing the US from the Paris climate agreement “would be an enormous and possibly irreparable error.” The Post explained that the “agreement does not formally obligate the United States to make any particular level of emissions cuts,” and calls on President Trump to instead modify the country’s commitment. Leaving, the Post suggested, “would rightly provoke sharp and sustained international outrage.”

### **Former EPA Head Warns Against Trump Administration Policies.**

The Huffington Post (3/4, Marans) reported former Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Gina McCarthy warned Saturday that President Trump’s “funding cuts to the agency and rollback of Obama-era rules pose a major threat to public health.” McCarthy made the statements in response to reports that the agency will undo the prior Administration’s automobile emissions regulations next week.

### **Ethanol Producers Face Uncertainty From Trump Administration.**

The Minneapolis Star Tribune (3/4, Hughlett) reports US ethanol producers face “significant uncertainties” under the Trump Administration. “Trump has told ethanol producers he backs biofuel,” but some worry that the industry could face unfavorable regulatory changes from the EPA. Whats more, the President’s trade policies may hurt exports, “the lifeblood of profits for the industry.”

### **Op-Ed: Repealing Methane Regulation Will Cost Taxpayers Millions.**

Fred Krupp, president of Environmental Defense Fund, writes in the Pundits Blog for The Hill (3/3, Krupp, Contributor) that the bill to repeal the BLM’s methane regulation will rob taxpayers of millions of dollars in royalties owed by energy companies drilling for oil and gas on land that belongs to the public. The measure required energy companies to reduce the 109 billion cubic feet of natural gas that is wasted every year through leaks, venting and flaring. The repeal will cost taxpayers \$270 million or more in lost payments over the next decade, according to ICF International. Krupp argues the policy delivers immediate benefits for communities that border oil and gas operations because it reduces levels of air pollution.

**Congress Urged To Kill BLM’s Venting Rule.** In an op-ed for the Colorado Springs (CO) Gazette (3/5, Thomson), Regina Thomson, president of the Colorado Issues Coalition, urges the Senate to pass legislation to “repeal new controls on natural gas production installed in the waning days of the Obama administration.” Thomson claims that “it’s possible for regulators to make energy production more environmentally friendly without burdening developers with excessive expenses,” but “these rules fail to strike that balance.” Thomson also argues that “smothering natural gas firms will cause huge new environmental harms” and have negative economic impacts.

## **TOXICS/TSCA**

### **California Healthy Nail Salon Movement Receives EPA Funding.**

The AP (3/5, Knickmeyer) reported on the history of a growing nail salon health movement across San Francisco, which has received attention from the Environmental Protection Agency. The California Healthy Nail Salon Collaborative effectively lobbied for state legislation to certify nail salons which reduce employees’ exposure to chemicals, giving voice to health complaints from

"more than 400,000 nail-salon workers, mostly immigrants from Vietnam, the Philippines, South Korea and other Asian countries and many with limited English or political experience." The Collaborative received a \$120,000 from the EPA partly "because it believes the model could expand nationally, said Matthew Tejada, director of the agency's office of environmental justice."

## **WATER INFRASTRUCTURE**

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### **Families Concerned Over Chemical Exposure From Contaminated Water At Former Air Base.**

The AP (3/4, Casey) reports on the families who are having to come to terms with the hidden risks of having lived at the Pease International Tradeport, an air base that underwent redevelopment. The AP says the drinking water at the base was "contaminated by military firefighting foam that contained perfluorinated compounds, or PFCs." This exposure, the piece says, was in everything from "nonstick cookware and stain-resistant carpet." The PFCs have also been "linked in animal studies to low birth weight, accelerated puberty, cancer and thyroid problems, among other maladies, according to the Environmental Protection Agency." The AP indicates, however, that how problems may be manifesting themselves in humans isn't clear and that this is not "sitting well with the Pease parents whose children were found to have elevated levels of PFCs in their blood."

### **Additional Reading.**

- *Flint Mayor: City Needs 2 Years Before It Can Treat Its Own Water.* CNN. (3/5)

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# EPA Daily News Briefing

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TO: ADMINISTRATOR AND SENIOR EXECUTIVES

DATE: MONDAY, MARCH 6, 2017 7:00 AM EST

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## ADMINISTRATOR:

### EPA Withdraws Oil, Gas Methane Emission Data Request.

The AP (3/2, Daly) reported the Environmental Protection Agency "is withdrawing an Obama-era request that oil and natural gas companies provide

information on methane emissions at oil and gas operations." EPA Administrator Pruitt said he "wants to assess the need for the information," adding that the change "will reduce burdens on businesses while we take a closer look at the need for additional information from this industry."

### EPA Chief To Give First Address To Industry At CERAWeek.

Fuel Fix (TX) (3/5, Hunn) reports that

EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt will give his first public address to the oil and gas industry as a speaker at CERAWWeek in Houston. The CERAWWeek agenda describes his work examining water quality in the Illinois River and settling water rights disputes, suggesting that he will assume a “conciliatory” tone similar to that used in his speech to EPA employees two weeks ago.

**Pruitt Urged To Maintain Stance Against “Regulation-Through-Litigation.”** Orange County (CA) Register (3/2, Shelley) columnist Susan Shelley describes lawsuits by environmental groups intended to force the federal government to make a speedier determination of the lesser prairie chicken’s endangerment status as exactly what EPA Administration Scott Pruitt referred to when he pledged not to “sue-and-settle” and enable “regulation-through-litigation.”

#### **Additional Reading.**

- **McEachin: Scott Pruitt Will Harm The Chesapeake’s Future.** Hampton Roads (VA) Virginian-Pilot (3/5)

## **AIR:**

**Southern California Officials Vote For Oil Refinery Pollution Plan.** The Los Angeles Times (3/3, Barboza) reported Southern California “officials voted Friday to impose tougher rules on oil refineries but rejected a proposal to regulate pollution from ports and warehouses.” The plan “faces immediate obstacles because of its hefty price tag,” requiring a “tenfold increase” of “cash incentives for cleaner vehicles to \$1 billion a year.” The California Air Resources Board will consider the plan next, after which is must be “approved by the EPA to become enforceable under the federal Clean Air Act.”

## **BROWNFIELDS/SUPERFUND/OTHER CLEANUPS:**

**Feds Approve New Bird Deterrent System For Toxic Berkeley Pit.** The AP (3/3) reported that last November, nearly 4,000 migrating snow geese died when they flew into the toxic Berkeley Pit in Butte, Montana, which is part of the nation’s largest Superfund site. Federal officials have approved a series of new bird deterrent measures meant “to prevent a repeat of last fall’s mass bird deaths,” including the use of strobe lights and remote-controlled boats to keep birds away from the pit.

## **BUDGET:**

### **EPA Draft Budget Details 25 Percent Cut, 3,000**

**Job Cuts.** The AP (3/3, Flesher, Daly, Lucey) reports on a draft EPA budget proposal it obtained outlining a roughly 25 percent budget cut and 19 percent staff reduction, about 3,000 jobs. The EPA declined to comment, but in a internal memo obtained by the AP, Acting Assistant Administrator Donna Vizian said EPA leaders “will do everything in our power to protect our ability to support the mission of the agency.” The draft proposal would cut the EPA budget from about \$8.2 billion to \$6.1 billion, including sharp reductions to the climate protection budget, Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, and environmental justice programs. The EPA’s monitoring and compliance enforcement activities are “also targeted for steep spending rollbacks.” Former EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy called the proposed budget “a fantasy” that ignores the EPA’s mission to protect public health. Reuters (3/3, Gardner, Vollcovici) reported that President Trump has “vowed his planned overhaul of green regulation would not jeopardize America’s water and air quality.” However, the budget cuts would “cut deeply into programs like climate protection, environmental justice and enforcement.”

E&E Publishing (3/3) reported that according to a source, yesterday “Pruitt made it clear that some of his budget priorities differ from the White House’s draft.”

Science Magazine (3/3, Cornwall) reported that the Office of Management and Budget argued the cuts are necessary “to help reduce the burden that EPA regulations place on industry and state and local governments.” Meanwhile, a senior EPA official warned that if implemented, the cuts could cause EPA’s research office to “implode.”

## **ENERGY:**

### **Perry Vows To Support DOE Employees In First Address As Secretary.**

The Las Vegas Review-Journal (3/3, Martin) reported Energy Secretary Rick Perry gave his first speech to Department of Energy employees Friday. He “vowed...to be an advocate for the department,” saying that DOE employees “have the ability to change the world.” The Hill (3/3, Cama) reported Perry “told his new department Friday that he was awestruck at what its workers do,” and made it clear that he wanted employees “to thrive in their missions, which include energy research and maintaining the nation’s stockpile of nuclear weapons.”

The Dallas (TX) Morning News (3/3, Benning, Bureau) also covered Perry’s address, and details some of the secretary’s current tasks including developing a budget and dealing with nuclear security.

## **Carper A Key Player On Environmental Issues.**

USA Today (3/3, King) profiles Delaware Sen. Tom Carper, the “normally collaborative” top Democrat on the Environment and Public Works Committee, who is being noted for “the ferocity of his opposition” to Scott Pruitt to lead the EPA. Carper’s performance “reassured environmental activists” who fretted after he replaced California Sen. Barbara Boxer on the panel. With Republicans holding 52 Senate seats, Carper is “a key player on environmental issues.” Carper says the he is most concerned by the “weakening of power plant emission rules, a de-emphasis on combating climate change, and the increased threat of mercury,” USA Today reports.

## **Energy Consultant: Environmental Extremism Hurts Energy Development.**

In a Las Vegas Sun (3/4, Bakker) op-ed, strategic consultant Eliot Bakker criticized environmental activists who engage in “hysterics” even though “the consensus among industry experts is that opportunities for clean energy still abound under the” Trump Administration. He argued that Trump’s energy policies “aren’t that different from Barack Obama’s,” and warns that continued stonewalling of projects that were supported under the previous Administration will hurt the country’s energy future.

## **ENFORCEMENT:**

### **Pennsylvania DEP Proposes New Fees To Gain Funding.**

The Allentown (PA) Morning Call (3/3, Levy) reported that budget cuts to Pennsylvania’s Department of Environmental Protection have reached a “critical point,” according the Citizens Advisory Council. The agency has proposed fee increases on industries it regulates to raise money needed to hire additional staff necessary to carry out the agency’s mission. The federal government has warned that if the state agency continues to be underfunded and understaffed, the U.S. EPA “could take enforcement duties away from Pennsylvania.”

## **OTHER NEWS:**

### **WHO Reports Suggests Pollution Kills 1.7 Million Children Each Year.**

The Washington Post (3/5, Naqvi) reports environmental pollution “is associated with more than one in four deaths among children younger than 5,” according to two World Health Organization reports. The WHO found that “weaker immune systems make children’s health more vulnerable to harmful effects of polluted environments,” and provided a breakdown of the 1.7 million children killed each year by pollution.

Reuters (3/5, Kelland) reports WHO public health expert Maria Neira “urged governments to do more to make all places safe for children,” adding that “investing in the removal of environmental risks to health, such as improving water quality or using cleaner fuels, will result in massive health benefits.”

### ***WPost Stresses Global Need For Environmental Enforcement Measures.***

In an editorial, the Washington Post (3/5) warns President Trump’s efforts to reduce Environmental Protection Agency staff and cut “superfluous” EPA programs, including “those addressing climate change,” will result in his Administration throwing “out only bathwater and no baby,” because ignoring present and future pollution challenges “ignores vast volumes of evidence on the ecological and human damage various types of pollution still cause.” The Post cites a recent study’s “finding that two major types of air pollution were associated with 4.2 million deaths in 2015,” with a disproportionate death toll in China and India. If developing nations rely too heavily on “coal burning, people’s health will still be threatened,” the Post writes, and says these nations must grow their economies in ways that do not threaten air quality. The Post also says the negative impact of air pollution reinforces an “appreciation for effective environmental enforcement” in the US, and necessitates that world governments “press major developing nations on cross-border pollution matters.”

## **RULES/REGULATIONS/POLICY:**

### **Administration Expected To Roll Back CAFE Standards In Coming Week.**

The New York Times (3/3, Davenport) reports Transportation Secretary Chao and EPA Administrator Pruitt are expected “as soon as Tuesday” to announce that the Administration “will immediate start to undo one of former President Barack Obama’s most significant environmental legacies,” the corporate average fuel economy standards. The Times says the White House could couple the announcement with a directive to Pruitt’s agency to start the work of undoing the Clean Power Plan. Aside from lifting the restrictions on carbon emissions from vehicles, changes to the CAFE standards “will also have a major effect on the United States auto industry,” which has told Trump’s Administration it finds the “technical requirements” of emissions reduction “too burdensome.” Reuters (3/3, Shepardson) reports that reopening a review of CAFE standards would come after automakers urged the Trump administration to reverse an Obama-era decision leaving them in place at roughly unchanged levels.

Citing multiple unnamed sources, the Wall Street Journal (3/4, Spector, Harder) reports the EPA is also examining the implications of stemming California’s waiver from the EPA to set its own vehicle greenhouse-gas

emissions standards. The standards would remain in place while the review is underway.

The Washington Post (3/3, Eilperin, Dennis) reports the rumors of an imminent announcement on the matter is “the latest signal by the Trump administration that it is charting a new course on climate change.” The story reports that when EPA and NHTSA first wrote the rules five years ago, they “agreed to review the 2022-2025 standards,” but last December EPA found that no review was needed and “finalized the standards a week before Trump took office.” Bloomberg News (3/3, Beene) reports 18 executives from the auto industry wrote Trump “last month, asking him to reinstate the review of fuel economy regulations.”

**Average Fuel Economy For US Vehicles Went From 14 MPG In 1923 To 17.9 MPG In 2015.** The Christian Science Monitor (3/3, Read) reports that a study of average fuel economy data from 1923 to 2015 by University of Michigan researchers Michael Sivak and Brandon Schoettle resulted in findings that “are a little depressing.” The survey indicates that “in 1923, America’s fleet of cars, trucks, buses, and vans earned an average of 14 miles to the gallon” before dipping and “bottoming out at 11.9 miles per gallon in 1973.” That year brought the Oil Crisis, which forced up fuel economy to the point that “within 20 years, average fuel economy had regained a fair bit of ground, hitting 16.9 miles per gallon in 1991.” The survey finds, however, that since 1991, “improvement efforts have stalled,” with “the average fuel economy of vehicles registered in America [rising] just one mile per gallon – yes, one – hitting 17.9 in 2015.”

**Trump Will Not Act On Paris Agreement Next Week.** Politico (3/3, Restuccia) reported the White House “disputed a story published Thursday in The New York Times that said Trump hoped to announce his official stance on the Paris deal next week,” telling Politico that President Trump “has no plans to make a decision” then. Sources “cautioned that top White House advisers have not yet fleshed out a detailed position on the issue.” Bloomberg News (3/3, Ryan) reported clean energy advocates hope to influence Trump’s climate policy with economic arguments. At a Friday conference in Chicago, environmentalists suggested Trump “may be swayed by the 360,000 jobs provided by wind and solar in the US last year.”

**WPost: Removing US From Paris Agreement Is An “Enormous” Error.** In an editorial, the Washington Post (3/4) warned that removing the US from the Paris climate agreement “would be an enormous and possibly irreparable error.” The Post explained that the “agreement does not formally obligate the United States to make any particular level of emissions cuts,” and calls on President Trump to instead modify the country’s commitment. Leaving, the Post suggested, “would rightly provoke sharp and sustained international outrage.”

**Former EPA Head Warns Against Trump Administration Policies.** The Huffington Post (3/4, Marans) reported former Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Gina McCarthy warned Saturday that President Trump’s “funding cuts to the agency and rollback of Obama-era rules pose a major threat to public health.” McCarthy made the statements in response to reports that the agency will undo the prior Administration’s automobile emissions regulations next week.

**Ethanol Producers Face Uncertainty From Trump Administration.** The Minneapolis Star Tribune (3/4, Hughlett) reports US ethanol producers face “significant uncertainties” under the Trump Administration. “Trump has told ethanol producers he backs biofuel,” but some worry that the industry could face unfavorable regulatory changes from the EPA. What’s more, the President’s trade policies may hurt exports, “the lifeblood of profits for the industry.”

**Op-Ed: Repealing Methane Regulation Will Cost Taxpayers Millions.** Fred Krupp, president of Environmental Defense Fund, writes in the Pundits Blog for The Hill (3/3, Krupp, Contributor) that the bill to repeal the BLM’s methane regulation will rob taxpayers of millions of dollars in royalties owed by energy companies drilling for oil and gas on land that belongs to the public. The measure required energy companies to reduce the 109 billion cubic feet of natural gas that is wasted every year through leaks, venting and flaring. The repeal will cost taxpayers \$270 million or more in lost payments over the next decade, according to ICF International. Krupp argues the policy delivers immediate benefits for communities that border oil and gas operations because it reduces levels of air pollution.

**Congress Urged To Kill BLM’s Venting Rule.** In an op-ed for the Colorado Springs (CO) Gazette (3/5, Thomson), Regina Thomson, president of the Colorado Issues Coalition, urges the Senate to pass legislation to “repeal new controls on natural gas production installed in the waning days of the Obama administration.” Thomson claims that “it’s possible for regulators to make energy production more environmentally friendly without burdening developers with excessive expenses,” but “these rules fail to strike that balance.” Thomson also argues that “smothering natural gas firms will cause huge new environmental harms” and have negative economic impacts.

## **TOXICS/TSCA:**

**California Healthy Nail Salon Movement Receives EPA Funding.** The AP (3/5, Knickmeyer) reported on the history of a growing nail salon health movement across San Francisco, which has received attention from the Environmental Protection Agency. The

California Healthy Nail Salon Collaborative effectively lobbied for state legislation to certify nail salons which reduce employees' exposure to chemicals, giving voice to health complaints from "more than 400,000 nail-salon workers, mostly immigrants from Vietnam, the Philippines, South Korea and other Asian countries and many with limited English or political experience." The Collaborative received a \$120,000 from the EPA partly "because it believes the model could expand nationally, said Matthew Tejada, director of the agency's office of environmental justice."

## **WATER INFRASTRUCTURE:**

### **Families Concerned Over Chemical Exposure From Contaminated Water At Former Air Base.**

The AP (3/4, Casey) reports on the families who are having to come to terms with the hidden risks of having lived at the Pease International Tradeport, an air base that underwent redevelopment. The AP says the drinking water at the base was "contaminated by military firefighting foam that contained perfluorinated compounds, or PFCs." This exposure, the piece says, was in everything from "nonstick cookware and stain-resistant carpet." The PFCs have also been "linked in animal studies to low birth weight, accelerated puberty, cancer and thyroid problems, among other maladies, according to the Environmental Protection Agency." The AP indicates, however, that how problems may be manifesting themselves in humans isn't clear and that this is not "sitting well with the Pease parents whose children were found to have elevated levels of PFCs in their blood."

### **Additional Reading.**

- *Flint Mayor: City Needs 2 Years Before It Can Treat Its Own Water.* [CNN](#). (3/5)

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## EPA Daily News Briefing

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**TO: ADMINISTRATOR AND SENIOR EXECUTIVES**

**DATE: THURSDAY, MARCH 2, 2017 7:00 AM EST**

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## **ADMINISTRATOR**

### **Pruitt Cheered On By Farmers For Water Rule Repeal.**

Bloomberg BNA (3/1, Schultz) reports that EPA Administrator was enthusiastically greeted by a "ballroom full of farmers" at an American Farm Bureau Federation convention on February 28. Referring to the Trump administration's executive order beginning the process of rescinding the Waters of the US Rule, Pruitt told attendants, "relief is on the way" and that "this is the first step toward fixing what's wrong with our federal regulations."

Greenwire (3/1, Reilly) reports that New York dairy farmer Dave Fisher, also the president of the New York Farm Bureau, was among those welcoming Pruitt at the conference. Fisher "said he blames the WOTUS rule and other EPA regulations for increasing the cost of doing business in an industry where farmers sometimes struggle with low milk prices and high feed prices that make for narrow profit margins."

### **Democratic AGs Expected To Defend Obama-Era Climate Regulations.**

Greenwire (3/1, Reilly) reports that Scott Pruitt, who has a history of challenging the EPA in court during his tenure as Oklahoma's attorney general, "will likely soon find himself on the other side of lawsuits filed by Democratic attorneys general" aiming to prevent the Trump administration from pulling out of Obama-era regulations. An early example will likely be the Clean Power Plan, which is currently pending before court. If the Trump administration "drops its defense in court, Democratic attorneys general and environmental groups could continue to defend the rule in the D.C. Circuit and the Supreme Court."

### **Pruitt Wants More Money For Water Projects, Superfund Cleanups.**

E&E Daily (3/1) reports EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt will meet top White House officials to push for more money for EPA's water infrastructure revolving loan and grant programs and the backlog of Superfund cleanups, which "are prime candidates" for inclusion in the infrastructure package. Pruitt said he will focus on "roads, bridges and water infrastructure — outside the budget" during the discussion. On Superfund cleanups, Pruitt cited long-delayed work in Oregon's Port of Portland; Butte, Montana; and the Hanford nuclear site in Washington state. "It is absolutely unacceptable to have sites on the National Priorities List for three to four decades," Pruitt said.

### **Harris: Pruitt's Call For Debate On Climate Change Should Be Welcomed.**

Writing in the Washington Times, (3/2, Harris) Tom Harris, executive director of the Ottawa, Canada-based International Climate Science Coalition, discusses how he believes Scott Pruitt should lead the EPA, particularly regarding the issue of climate change. Citing “recent charges by a former National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration scientist that agency researchers are manipulating data to support climate alarmism,” Harris believes that Pruitt “can expect strong public support for his call to open debate on climate change.”

## AIR

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### **Study: Asian Ozone Emissions Driving Up Background Levels In Western US.**

Greenwire (3/1) reports air pollution from Asia wafting into the western US is undercutting efforts to reduce regional ozone levels, according to a study published in the journal *Atmospheric Chemistry and Physics*. From 1990 to 2014, “a threefold increase in Asian emissions of nitrogen oxides outpaced the benefits of a 50 percent reduction in US releases.” The increase is the “major driver” of rising levels of background ozone in the western US and explains increases in ozone levels at national parks.

## BUDGET

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### **Trump EPA Budget Plan Targets Climate, Efficiency, Cleanup Programs.**

The Hill (3/1, Henry) reports the White House is considering a 24 percent reduction in the EPA’s \$8.1 billion budget, cutting funding for some programs popular with lawmakers. Programs being targeted include grants for brownfield cleanups, the Energy Star energy efficiency program, climate change efforts and funding for Alaskan native villages. The White House could also propose a 42 percent cut to the EPA’s Office of Research and Development. Key Republican House appropriators on Tuesday “were hesitant about cuts as deep as those the White House wants,” while EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt said he’s “concerned” with some of the cuts outlined.

The Washington Post (3/1, Eilperin, Dennis) reports that such “deep cuts” to the EPA budget “would reduce its staff by one-fifth in the first year and eliminate dozens of programs, according to details of a document reviewed” by the Post. In addition to eliminating 3,000 EPA jobs, the plan “dictates cutting the agency’s grants to states, including its air and water programs, by 30 percent, and eliminating 38 separate programs in their entirety.”

Vox (3/1, Plumer) reports that “according to multiple accounts, Donald Trump’s team has been using Heritage’s blueprint as a guide” in its search for \$54 billion in spending cuts for fiscal year 2018. The Heritage budget spreads cuts out across every agency and “goes particularly hard after energy and environmental programs.” The blueprint includes the elimination of the EPA’s climate-change programs; federal research into wind, solar, nuclear, and clean energy; and environmental justice programs. Taken together, the blueprint’s cuts “could amount to a stark change in US environmental policy.”

Business Insider (3/1, Ernst) notes that of the EPA’s annual budget, about three-quarters goes toward grants to states, tribes, and government contractors for cleanup and preparedness efforts. The remaining quarter goes to staff payroll, scientific studies, and other expenses. Former EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy released a statement yesterday stating that the budget is a “fantasy if the administration believes it will preserve EPA’s mission to protect public health,” reports E&E Daily (3/2, Reilly)

***Federal Workers Concerned About Layoffs.*** The Washington Post (3/1, Rein) reports that federal workers “are growing increasingly anxious at the prospect of massive budget cuts” after President Trump said that he will “call for \$54 billion in reductions to offset new spending for the

Pentagon.” National Treasury Employees Union President Tony Reardon, whose union represents 150,000 federal workers across 31 departments, said, “I don’t think there’s any way around it, this level of cuts will almost certainly lead to layoffs.”

***Lawmakers Uncertain Whether Government Cuts Will Move Forward.*** The “Morning Energy” blog of Politico (3/1) reported Senior House Appropriators are doubtful “Congress will deliver the 25 percent cuts reportedly sought by the Trump administration for EPA.” Rep. Mike Simpson was doubtful “Republicans would go along with a rumored ten percent cut to energy and water budget.” He told reporters, “That’d be pretty devastating to most our labs and to the research they do and other things.”

***Government Services Firm CGI Concerned Budget Cuts Will Hurt Business.*** The Washington Business Journal (3/1) reports that government services firm CGI Federal is facing budget cuts at two of its “key customers,” the State Department and the EPA. “Several reports” have indicated that the White House is poised to slash their budgets by 37 percent and 24 percent, respectively. Combined, the two entities account for 59.3 percent of CGI’s \$925.3 million in federal contracting revenue.

### **Additional Reading.**

- ***EPA Funds For Native Water Projects Could Disappear Under Trump Administration.*** Alaska Public Radio Network. (3/1)

## **ENERGY**

### **Coal Industry Tries To Re-frame Itself In Push For Carbon Capture Subsidies.**

The Austin (TX) American Statesman (3/1, Findell) reports, in continuing coverage, that Cloud Peak Energy, Peabody Energy and Arch Coal are lobbying for a tax bill to expand government subsidies to promote carbon capture and sequestration and reduce its environmental impact. “We can’t turn back time,” said Cloud Peak Energy executive Richard Reavey. “We have to accept that there are reasonable concerns about carbon dioxide and climate, and something has to be done about it.” The coal executives say the gains in renewable energy are not sufficient to stabilize the climate while satisfying demand, and that only capturing carbon from fossil fuel plants can shift the world to a low-carbon future.

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### **Additional Reading.**

- *Wastewater Practice Still Mostly Banned In U.S. After Ruling* [Bloomberg BNA](#). (3/1)

## **TOXICS/TSCA**

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### **Additional Reading.**

- *Toxic Chemical Worries Prompt Closure Of Part Of Monroe School.* [KOMO-TV](#). Seattle (3/1)

## **WATER INFRASTRUCTURE**

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## EPA Daily News Briefing

Bulletin  
INTELLIGENCE

Online version available at [epa.bulletinintelligence.com](http://epa.bulletinintelligence.com)

TO: ADMINISTRATOR AND SENIOR EXECUTIVES

DATE: THURSDAY, MARCH 2, 2017 7:00 AM EST

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## ADMINISTRATOR:

### Pruitt Cheered On By Farmers For Water Rule Repeal.

Bloomberg BNA (3/1, Schultz) reports that EPA Administrator was enthusiastically greeted by a "ballroom full of farmers" at an American Farm Bureau Federation convention on February 28. Referring to the Trump

administration's executive order beginning the process of rescinding the Waters of the US Rule, Pruitt told attendants, "relief is on the way" and that "this is the first step toward fixing what's wrong with our federal regulations."

Greenwire (3/1, Reilly) reports that New York dairy farmer Dave Fisher, also the president of the New York Farm Bureau, was among those welcoming Pruitt at the conference. Fisher "said he blames the WOTUS rule and other EPA regulations for increasing the cost of doing



business in an industry where farmers sometimes struggle with low milk prices and high feed prices that make for narrow profit margins.”

### **Democratic AGs Expected To Defend Obama-Era Climate Regulations.**

Greenwire (3/1, Reilly) reports that Scott Pruitt, who has a history of challenging the EPA in court during his tenure as Oklahoma’s attorney general, “will likely soon find himself on the other side of lawsuits filed by Democratic attorneys general” aiming to prevent the Trump administration from pulling out of Obama-era regulations. An early example will likely be the Clean Power Plan, which is currently pending before court. If the Trump administration “drops its defense in court, Democratic attorneys general and environmental groups could continue to defend the rule in the D.C. Circuit and the Supreme Court.”

### **Pruitt Wants More Money For Water Projects, Superfund Cleanups.**

E&E Daily (3/1) reports EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt will meet top White House officials to push for more money for EPA’s water infrastructure revolving loan and grant programs and the backlog of Superfund cleanups, which “are prime candidates” for inclusion in the infrastructure package. Pruitt said he will focus on “roads, bridges and water infrastructure — outside the budget” during the discussion. On Superfund cleanups, Pruitt cited long-delayed work in Oregon’s Port of Portland; Butte, Montana; and the Hanford nuclear site in Washington state. “It is absolutely unacceptable to have sites on the National Priorities List for three to four decades,” Pruitt said.

### **Harris: Pruitt’s Call For Debate On Climate Change Should Be Welcomed.**

Writing in the Washington Times, (3/2, Harris) Tom Harris, executive director of the Ottawa, Canada-based International Climate Science Coalition, discusses how he believes Scott Pruitt should lead the EPA, particularly regarding the issue of climate change. Citing “recent charges by a former National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration scientist that agency researchers are manipulating data to support climate alarmism,” Harris believes that Pruitt “can expect strong public support for his call to open debate on climate change.”

## **AIR:**

### **Study: Asian Ozone Emissions Driving Up Background Levels In Western US.**

Greenwire (3/1) reports air pollution from Asia wafting into the western US is undercutting efforts to reduce regional ozone levels, according to a study published in the journal *Atmospheric Chemistry and Physics*. From 1990 to 2014, “a threefold increase in Asian emissions of nitrogen oxides outpaced the benefits of a 50 percent reduction in US releases.” The

increase is the “major driver” of rising levels of background ozone in the western US and explains increases in ozone levels at national parks.

## **BUDGET:**

### **Trump EPA Budget Plan Targets Climate, Efficiency, Cleanup Programs.**

The Hill (3/1, Henry) reports the White House is considering a 24 percent reduction in the EPA’s \$8.1 billion budget, cutting funding for some programs popular with lawmakers. Programs being targeted include grants for brownfield cleanups, the Energy Star energy efficiency program, climate change efforts and funding for Alaskan native villages. The White House could also propose a 42 percent cut to the EPA’s Office of Research and Development. Key Republican House appropriators on Tuesday “were hesitant about cuts as deep as those the White House wants,” while EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt said he’s “concerned” with some of the cuts outlined.

The Washington Post (3/1, Eilperin, Dennis) reports that such “deep cuts” to the EPA budget “would reduce its staff by one-fifth in the first year and eliminate dozens of programs, according to details of a document reviewed” by the Post. In addition to eliminating 3,000 EPA jobs, the plan “dictates cutting the agency’s grants to states, including its air and water programs, by 30 percent, and eliminating 38 separate programs in their entirety.”

Vox (3/1, Plumer) reports that “according to multiple accounts, Donald Trump’s team has been using Heritage’s blueprint as a guide” in its search for \$54 billion in spending cuts for fiscal year 2018. The Heritage budget spreads cuts out across every agency and “goes particularly hard after energy and environmental programs.” The blueprint includes the elimination of the EPA’s climate-change programs; federal research into wind, solar, nuclear, and clean energy; and environmental justice programs. Taken together, the blueprint’s cuts “could amount to a stark change in US environmental policy.”

Business Insider (3/1, Ernst) notes that of the EPA’s annual budget, about three-quarters goes toward grants to states, tribes, and government contractors for cleanup and preparedness efforts. The remaining quarter goes to staff payroll, scientific studies, and other expenses. Former EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy released a statement yesterday stating that the budget is a “fantasy if the administration believes it will preserve EPA’s mission to protect public health,” reports E&E Daily (3/2, Reilly)

**Federal Workers Concerned About Layoffs.** The Washington Post (3/1, Rein) reports that federal workers “are growing increasingly anxious at the prospect of massive budget cuts” after President Trump said that he will “call for \$54 billion in reductions to offset new spending for the

Pentagon.” National Treasury Employees Union President Tony Reardon, whose union represents 150,000 federal workers across 31 departments, said, “I don’t think there’s any way around it, this level of cuts will almost certainly lead to layoffs.”

**Lawmakers Uncertain Whether Government Cuts Will Move Forward.** The “Morning Energy” blog of Politico (3/1) reported Senior House Appropriators are doubtful “Congress will deliver the 25 percent cuts reportedly sought by the Trump administration for EPA.” Rep. Mike Simpson was doubtful “Republicans would go along with a rumored ten percent cut to energy and water budget.” He told reporters, “That’d be pretty devastating to most our labs and to the research they do and other things.”

**Government Services Firm CGI Concerned Budget Cuts Will Hurt Business.** The Washington Business Journal (3/1) reports that government services firm CGI Federal is facing budget cuts at two of its “key customers,” the State Department and the EPA. “Several reports” have indicated that the White House is poised to slash their budgets by 37 percent and 24 percent, respectively. Combined, the two entities account for 59.3 percent of CGI’s \$925.3 million in federal contracting revenue.

### **Additional Reading.**

- **EPA Funds For Native Water Projects Could Disappear Under Trump Administration.** Alaska Public Radio Network. (3/1)

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## EPA Daily News Briefing

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INTELLIGENCE

**TO: ADMINISTRATOR AND SENIOR EXECUTIVES**

**DATE: MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2017 7:00 AM EST**

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  - Arsenic Levels Double Safe Limit In Warner Springs School Water. (KNSDTV)

## **ADMINISTRATOR**

### **Speaking At CPAC, Pruitt Says EPA Will Improve Air, Water Quality.**

Breitbart (2/25, Leahy) reported that while speaking at the Conservative Political Action Conference, EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt predicted air and water quality will improve over the next eight years under Trump administration policies. Pruitt said the agency under his leadership will focus on a partnership between the states and the federal government, one that "exists legally, that exist constitutionally."

The Daily Caller (2/25, White) reported that EPA Administration Scott Pruitt also "told a crowd...that people should be angry the EPA has abused its 'authority' as the country's environmental regulator," and that he understands why people want President Trump to abolish the agency in its entirety. Pruitt also said he "intends on working within the 'rule of law,' not making up laws on a whim." The Huffington Post (2/25) reported that Pruitt compared the EPA's likability to that of the IRS.

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### **Local TV Coverage: Salmon Preservation Lawsuit.**

KOMO-TV 📺 Seattle (2/24, 9:16 a.m. EST) reported, “A new effort to save the northwest salmon, environmental and fishing groups will take the government to court. A lawsuit filed in Seattle calls

on the EPA to create temperature limits on the Columbia River system. The suit says giant dams warm the water in the summer, which poses a threat to the salmon and steelhead."

## **OTHER NEWS**

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### **Spicer Says Questions About Paris Climate Deal Should Go To Tillerson.**

The "Morning Energy" blog of [Politico](#) (2/24) reported White House press secretary Sean Spicer deferred on a question about the Paris climate deal. When asked about the deal, Spicer said, "I will leave that to Secretary [Rex] Tillerson. That's a conversation that he's having with him as far as where we are on that."

## **RULES/REGULATIONS/POLICY**

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### **Trump To Roll Back High-Profile Obama Environmental Regulations.**

The [Wall Street Journal](#) (2/24, Harder) reported President Trump will sign two executive orders repealing a water regulation and a rule cutting carbon emissions from power plants. The first may be signed as early as Monday, as part of Trump's attempt to roll back the previous administration's high-profile environmental regulations.

***Pruitt Says EPA Will Roll Back Obama-Era Regulations.*** [Bloomberg News](#) (2/25, Dlouhy) reported EPA Administrator Pruitt "unveiled plans to roll back at least three Obama-era rules at the EPA while vowing to give businesses 'regulatory certainty.'" at the Conservative Political Action Conference on Saturday. Pruitt accused the previous administration of being too "focused on climate change" at the cost of "other priorities." [The Hill](#) (2/25, Greenwood) said "Pruitt blamed the Obama administration for failing to tackle more state-based environmental issues, such as a decades-old water quality issues in Oregon tied to a nuclear facility in Washington." He added that "some regulations that in the near term need to be rolled back in a very aggressive way." He added, "I think maybe next week, you may be hearing about some of those."

***WPost: Trump Must Have Alternative In Place Before Repealing Obama-Era Environmental Rules.*** In an editorial, the [Washington Post](#) (2/25) argued that "Republicans must have a believable alternative plan ready that would reduce emissions as much or more than current regulations would" if they plan to repeal Obama-era environmental rules. The Post warned that Trump's rush to fight regulations could hurt "accelerating global efforts to fight emissions collectively." Some conservatives have proposed replacing "EPA climate rules with a substantial carbon tax," the Post explained, adding, "This is what conservative governing looks like. What do Mr. Trump and the rest of his party want to do?"

### **California Democrats Introduce Measures To Protect Obama-Era Environmental Policy.**

According to [Reuters](#) (2/23, Carroll), Democratic state senators in California introduced the "Preserve California" package of bills Thursday that would ensure future federal policies do not "encroach on our far-reaching progressive [environmental] policies," said state Senate Leader Kevin de León in a press conference. The measures will make existing Obama-era federal regulations on clean air, water, and endangered species enforceable by state law and prevent the sale of federal lands to oil companies. [E&E Publishing](#) (2/23) reports that De León cited the newly appointed EPA Administrator, Scott Pruitt, as motivation for his bill.

### **NC Withdraws From CPP Lawsuit.**

The "Morning Energy" blog of [Politico](#) (2/24) reported North Carolina "has withdrawn itself from the Clean Power Plan lawsuits still pending before the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals, a consequence of Democrat Roy Cooper's win." Cooper, as attorney general, "declined to sue EPA over the climate rule, so Republican Gov. Pat McCrory sued via the state Department of Environmental Quality." Cooper is now governor and "he has the power to withdraw DEQ from the suit." Politico added that "26 states are still party to the action, along with the myriad businesses and trade groups."

### **Sierra Club Threatens To Sue EPA Over Lack Of RFS Program Analyses.**

The "Morning Energy" blog of [Politico](#) (2/24) reported the Sierra Club threatening to sue the EPA "over what it said was a failure to produce legally required analyses of the air and environmental impacts of the Renewable Fuel Standard program." In a statement staff attorney Devorah Ancel said, "It is unlawful for the EPA to so blatantly disregard its own rules and mandates when it comes to protecting our communities and environment." The agency "hasn't filed an air impact analysis in three years or an environmental impact in six years, the group said."

***Fuel Station Industry Insider: Changing RFS Will Hurt Consumers, Increase Gas Prices.*** In an op-ed in [The Hill](#) (2/24, Rawers, Contributor), Director of Fuel Procurement at Chronister Oil Company Bryce Rawers warned against refiners' push to change the Renewable Fuel Standard rules. Rawers claims the RFS "has lowered the cost of gasoline and diesel, supported domestic agricultural products, improved air quality by reducing emissions, and reduced our nation's reliance on foreign oil." He argued that changing the rules would "discourage the use of renewable fuel and punish the companies that have played by the rules over the last decade," and increase gasoline prices for consumers, and calls on EPA Administrator Pruitt to "preserve the RFS and ensure it continues to work as intended."

### **Safety Advocates Frustrated With GOP Proposal To Rescind Chemical Facility Bill.**

[Bloomberg BNA](#) (2/24, Pearson) reported that Republicans have proposed a bill that would "undo years of work by the Environmental Protection Agency on a plan to more closely track and monitor high-risk chemical facilities." Key Democrats are "silent so far," although they are expected to put forth an active opposition against the resolution if Republicans move for a vote. Moreover, "frustrated safety advocates" say that "taking up the resolution to block what they characterize as modest new rules could waste floor time better suited for other issues and burn bridges with lawmakers whose support will be needed for major legislation like infrastructure or tax reform."

## **WATER INFRASTRUCTURE**

### **Additional Reading.**

- ***Snyder Advisor Believes \$20M In Past Flint Water Loans Will Be Forgiven.*** [MLive \(MI\)](#). (2/24)
- ***Arsenic Levels Double Safe Limit In Warner Springs School Water.*** [KNSD-TV](#). San Diego (2/27)

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INTELLIGENCE

Online version available at [epa.bulletinintelligence.com](http://epa.bulletinintelligence.com)

**TO: ADMINISTRATOR AND SENIOR EXECUTIVES**  
**DATE: MONDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2017 7:00 AM EST**

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**Minnesota City To Seek Public Input On Emission Reduction Plan.** The Minneapolis Star Tribune (2/25, Van Berkel) reported St. Paul “is launching an effort to come up with a Climate Action Plan that provides a feasible path to reduce” greenhouse gas emissions. The city’s “goal is to be carbon neutral by 2050,” but officials will seek residents’ input on ways to reduce emissions “over the next few months” in a series of public meetings on a variety of topics.

## **ENFORCEMENT:**

**Local TV Coverage: Salmon Preservation Lawsuit.** KOMO-TV Seattle (2/24, 9:16 a.m. EST) reported, “A new effort to save the northwest salmon, environmental and fishing groups will take the government to court. A lawsuit filed in Seattle calls on the EPA to create temperature limits on the Columbia River system. The suit says giant dams warm the water in the summer, which poses a threat to the salmon and steelhead.”

## **OTHER NEWS:**

**Spicer Says Questions About Paris Climate Deal Should Go To Tillerson.** The “Morning Energy” blog of Politico (2/24) reported White House press secretary Sean Spicer deferred on a question about the Paris climate deal. When asked about the deal, Spicer said, “I will leave

that to Secretary [Rex] Tillerson. That’s a conversation that he’s having with him as far as where we are on that.”

## **RULES/REGULATIONS/POLICY:**

**Trump To Roll Back High-Profile Obama Environmental Regulations.** The Wall Street Journal (2/24, Harder) reported President Trump will sign two executive orders repealing a water regulation and a rule cutting carbon emissions from power plants. The first may be signed as early as Monday, as part of Trump’s attempt to roll back the previous administration’s high-profile environmental regulations.

**Pruitt Says EPA Will Roll Back Obama-Era Regulations.** Bloomberg News (2/25, Dlouhy) reported EPA Administrator Pruitt “unveiled plans to roll back at least three Obama-era rules at the EPA while vowing to give businesses ‘regulatory certainty.’” at the Conservative Political Action Conference on Saturday. Pruitt accused the previous administration of being too “focused on climate change” at the cost of “other priorities.” The Hill (2/25, Greenwood) said “Pruitt blamed the Obama administration for failing to tackle more state-based environmental issues, such as a decades-old water quality issues in Oregon tied to a nuclear facility in Washington.” He added that “some regulations that in the near term need to be rolled back in a very aggressive way.” He added, “I think maybe next week, you may be hearing about some of those.”

**WPost: Trump Must Have Alternative In Place Before Repealing Obama-Era Environmental Rules.** In an editorial, the Washington Post (2/25) argued that “Republicans must have a believable alternative plan ready that would reduce emissions as much or more than current regulations would” if they plan to repeal Obama-era environmental rules. The Post warned that Trump’s rush to fight regulations could hurt “accelerating global efforts to fight emissions collectively.” Some conservatives have proposed replacing “EPA climate rules with a substantial carbon tax,” the Post explained, adding, “This is what conservative governing looks like. What do Mr. Trump and the rest of his party want to do?”

## **California Democrats Introduce Measures To Protect Obama-Era Environmental Policy.**

According to Reuters (2/23, Carroll), Democratic state senators in California introduced the “Preserve California” package of bills Thursday that would ensure future federal policies do not “encroach on our far-reaching progressive [environmental] policies,” said state Senate Leader Kevin de León in a press conference. The measures will make existing Obama-era federal regulations on clean air, water, and endangered species enforceable by state law and prevent the sale of federal lands to oil companies. E&E Publishing (2/23)



reports that De León cited the newly appointed EPA Administrator, Scott Pruitt, as motivation for his bill.

**NC Withdraws From CPP Lawsuit.** The “Morning Energy” blog of [Politico](#) (2/24) reported North Carolina “has withdrawn itself from the Clean Power Plan lawsuits still pending before the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals, a consequence of Democrat Roy Cooper’s win.” Cooper, as attorney general, “declined to sue EPA over the climate rule, so Republican Gov. Pat McCrory sued via the state Department of Environmental Quality.” Cooper is now governor and “he has the power to withdraw DEQ from the suit.” Politico added that “26 states are still party to the action, along with the myriad businesses and trade groups.”

**Sierra Club Threatens To Sue EPA Over Lack Of RFS Program Analyses.** The “Morning Energy” blog of [Politico](#) (2/24) reported the Sierra Club threatening to sue the EPA “over what it said was a failure to produce legally required analyses of the air and environmental impacts of the Renewable Fuel Standard program.” In a statement staff attorney Devorah Ancel said, “It is unlawful for the EPA to so blatantly disregard its own rules and mandates when it comes to protecting our communities and environment.” The agency “hasn’t filed an air impact analysis in three years or an environmental impact in six years, the group said.”

**Fuel Station Industry Insider: Changing RFS Will Hurt Consumers, Increase Gas Prices.** In an op-ed in [The Hill](#) (2/24, Rawers, Contributor), Director of Fuel Procurement at Chronister Oil Company Bryce Rawers warned against refiners’ push to change the Renewable Fuel Standard rules. Rawers claims the RFS “has lowered the cost of gasoline and diesel, supported domestic agricultural products, improved air quality by reducing emissions, and reduced our nation’s reliance on foreign oil.” He argued that changing the rules would “discourage the use of renewable fuel and punish the companies that have played by the rules over the last decade,” and increase gasoline prices for consumers, and calls on EPA Administrator Pruitt to “preserve the RFS and ensure it continues to work as intended.”

**Safety Advocates Frustrated With GOP Proposal To Rescind Chemical Facility Bill.** [Bloomberg BNA](#) (2/24, Pearson) reported that Republicans have proposed a bill that would “undo years of work by the Environmental Protection Agency on a plan to more closely track and monitor high-risk chemical facilities.” Key Democrats are “silent so far,” although they are expected to put forth an active opposition against the resolution if Republicans move for a vote. Moreover, “frustrated safety advocates” say that “taking up the resolution to block what they characterize as modest new rules could waste floor time better suited for other issues and burn bridges with

lawmakers whose support will be needed for major legislation like infrastructure or tax reform.”

## **WATER INFRASTRUCTURE:**

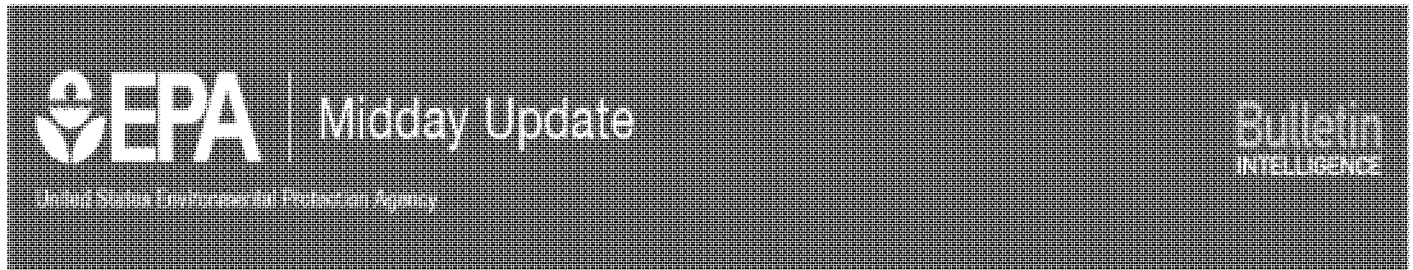
### **Additional Reading.**

- **Snyder Advisor Believes \$20M In Past Flint Water Loans Will Be Forgiven.** [MLive \(MI\)](#). (2/24)
- **Arsenic Levels Double Safe Limit In Warner Springs School Water.** [KNSD-TV](#). San Diego (2/27)

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**TO: ADMINISTRATOR AND SENIOR EXECUTIVES**

**DATE: FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2017 1:00 PM EST**

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### **OFF THE WIRES**

#### **New Home Sales Up Sharply, But Fail To Meet Forecasts.**

The Commerce Department reports today that new home sales rose 3.7 percent in January to an annual rate of 555,000 units, an increase of 5.5 percent from one year ago. Economist had expected a much higher increase of 6.3 percent to 570,000 units. Market inventory rose 3.5 percent to 265,000 units, and it would take 5.7 months to sell off existing inventory, the same as December.

## **Consumer Sentiment Falls In January.**

The University of Michigan reports today that its index of consumer sentiment fell from 98.5 in January to 96.3 in February. Economists had expected the index to come in at 96.

## **IN THE WHITE HOUSE AND AROUND TOWN**

### **Trump Addresses CPAC In Well-Received "America First" Speech.**

President Trump today delivered remarks at the Conservative Political Action Conference today, where he addressed a wide range of issues, targeted the media, and elaborated on his "America First" approach to governing. Trump said, "Great to be back at CPAC. It's a place I have really...I love this place. ... Love you people. So thank you – thank you very much. First of all, I want to thank Matt Schlapp and his very, very incredible wife, and boss, Mercedes, who have been fantastic friends and supporters and so great. When I watch them on television defending me, nobody has a chance. So I want to thank Matt and Mercedes.

"And when Matt called and asked I said, 'Absolutely I'll be there with you.' I mean, the real reason I said it, I didn't want him to go against me cause that...that one you can't beat. So I said absolutely. And it really is an honor to be here. I wouldn't miss a chance to talk to my friends. These are my friends.

"And we'll see you again next year and the year after that and I'll be doing this...I'll be doing this with CPAC whenever I can and I'll make sure that we're here a lot. ... You know if you remember my first major speech – sit down everybody. C'mon. ... You know the dishonest media they'll say, 'He didn't get a standing ovation.' You know why? ... No – you know why? Because everybody stood and nobody sat. So they will say, 'He never got a standing ovation,' right? They are the worst.

"So – sit down. ... 'Donald Trump did not get a standing ovation.' ... They leave out the part, 'They never sat down.' They leave that out.

"So I just want to thank – but you know my first major speak was at CPAC and – probably five or six years ago. First major political speech. And you were there. And it was – I loved it. I loved the people. I loved the commotion. And then they did these polls were I went through the roof and I wasn't even running, right? ...

"But it gave me an idea. And I got a little bit concerned when I saw what was happening in the country. And I said, 'Let's go to it.' So, it was very exciting. I walked the stage on CPAC. I'll never forget it, really. I had very little notes and even less preparation. So when you have practically no notes and no preparation and then you leave and everybody was thrilled, I said, 'I think I like this business.'

"I would've come last year but I was worried that I would be, at that time, too controversial. We wanted border security. We wanted very, very strong military. We wanted all of the things that we're going to get...and people consider that controversial but you didn't consider it controversial. So, I've been with CPAC for a long time. All of these years we've been together. And now you finally have a president, finally. Took you a long time. ... Took you a long time.

"And it's patriots like you that made it happen, believe me. Believe me. You did it because you love your country, because you want a better future for your children and because you want to make America great again. The media didn't think we would win. The...pundits – you're right. They had an idea. The pundits didn't think we'd win. The consultants that suck up all that money – oh, they suck it up. They're so good.

"They're not good at politics, but they're really good at sucking up people's money. Especially my opponents, because I kept them down to a minimum. But the consultants didn't

think we would win. But they all underestimated the power of the people: You. And the people proved them... totally wrong. Never – and – and this is so true. And this is what's been happening. Never underestimate the people. Never. I don't think it'll ever happen again."

***Trump Doubles Down On "Fake News" Media Being "Enemy Of The People."*** Trump continued, "And I want you all to know that we are fighting the fake news. It's fake, phony, fake. A few days ago I called the fake news the enemy of the people. And they are. They are the enemy of the people.

"Because they have no sources, they just make 'em up when there are none. I saw one story recently where they said, 'Nine people have confirmed.' There're no nine people. I don't believe there was one or two people. Nine people. And I said, 'Give me a break.' Because I know the people, I know who they talk to. There were no nine people.

"But they say 'nine people.' And somebody reads it and they think, 'Oh, nine people. They have nine sources.' They make up sources. They're very dishonest people. In fact, in covering my comments, the dishonest media did not explain that I called the fake news the enemy of the people. The fake news. They dropped off the word 'fake.' And all of a sudden the story became the media is the enemy.

"They take the word 'fake' out. And now I'm saying, 'Oh no, this is no good.' But that's the way they are. So I'm not against the media, I'm not against the press. I don't mind bad stories if I deserve them. And I tell ya, I love good stories, but we don't go...I don't get too many of them.

"But I am only against the fake news, media or press. Fake, fake. They have to leave that word. I'm against the people that make up stories and make up sources. They shouldn't be allowed to use sources unless they use somebody's name. Let their name be put out there. Let their name be put out.

"A source says that Donald Trump is a horrible, horrible human being.' Let 'em say it to my face. Let there be no more sources.

"And remember this – and in not – in all cases. I mean, I had a story written yesterday about me in Reuters by a very honorable man. It was a very fair story. There are some great reporters around. They're talented, they're honest as the day is long. They're great.

"But there are some terrible dishonest people and they do a tremendous disservice to our country and to our people. A tremendous disservice. They are very dishonest people. And they shouldn't use sources. They should put the name of the person. You will see stories dry up like you've never seen before.

"So you have no idea how bad it is, because if you are not part of the story – and I put myself in your position sometimes. Because many of you, you're not part of the story. And if you're not part of the story, you know, then you, sort of, know – if you are part of the story, you know what they're saying is true or not.

"So when they make it up – and they make up something else, and you saw that before the election: polls, polls. The polls. They come out with these polls and everybody was so surprised. Actually, a couple polls got it right. I must say Los Angeles Times did a great job, shocking because, you know, they did a great job.

"And we had a couple of others that were right, but generally speaking, I mean, can tell you the network, somebody said a poll came out. And I say, what network is it? And they'll say, a certain – let's not even mention names, right? Shall we? ... Well, you have a lot of them. Look, the Clinton News Network is one.

"Totally. Take a look. Honestly. Take a look, honestly. Take a look at polls over the last two years. Now you'd think they would fire the pollster, right? After years and years of getting battered, but I – who knows, maybe they are just bad at polling or maybe they're not legit, but it's one or the other, look at how inaccurate – look at CBS, look at ABC, also, look at NBC, take a

look at some of these polls. They're so bad, so inaccurate and what that does is it creates a false narrative.

"It creates like this narrative that is just like we're not going to win, people say, I love Trump, but you know, I'm not feeling great today, he can't win, so I won't go and vote. I won't go and vote. It creates a whole false deal. And we have to fight it, folks, we have to fight it. They're very smart, they're very cunning and they're very dishonest.

"So just to conclude, I mean, it's a very sensitive topic and they get upset when we expose their false stories. They say that we can't criticize their dishonest coverage because of the First Amendment, you know, they always bring up the First Amendment.

"And I love the First Amendment; nobody loves it better than me. Nobody. ... I mean, who use its more than I do? But the First Amendment gives all of us – it gives it to me, it gives it to you, it gives it to all Americans, the right to speak our minds freely. It gives you the right and me the right to criticize fake news and criticize it strongly.

"And many of these groups are part the large media corporations that have their own agenda and it's not your agenda and it's not the country's agenda, it's their own agenda. They have a professional obligation as members of the press to report honestly. But as you saw throughout the entire campaign, and even now, the fake news doesn't tell the truth. Doesn't tell the truth.

"So just in finishing, I say it doesn't represent the people, it doesn't tell the never will represent the people, and we're going to do something about it because we have to go out and have to speak our minds and we have to be honest. Our victory was a win like nobody has ever seen before.

"I'm here fighting for you and I will continue to fight for you. The victory and the win were something that really was dedicated to a country and people that believe in freedom, security and the rule of law. Our victory...was a victory and the win for conservative values.

"And our victory was a win for everyone who believes it's time to stand up for America, to stand up for the American worker and to stand up for the American flag. ... Yeah, there we should stand up. Come on. There we should stand up. OK. And by the way, we love our flag. By the way, you folks are in here – this place is packed, there are lines that go back six blocks and I tell you that because you won't read about it, OK.

"But there are lines that go back six blocks, there is such love in this country for everything we stand for, you saw that on Election Day. And you're going to see it more and more."

***Trump: Movement Will Define The Future Of The Republican Party As Putting America First.*** The President continued, "So we're all part of this very historic movement, a movement the likes of which, actually, the world has never seen before. There's never been anything like this. There's been some movements, but there's never been anything like this. There's been some movements that petered out like Bernie, petered out.

"But it was a little rigged against him, you know, super delegate, super delegate. She had so many delegates before the thing even started, I actually said to my people, how does that happen? Not that I'm a fan of Bernie, but a lot of Bernie people voted for Trump, you know why? Because he's right on one issue; trade. He was right about trade. Our country is being absolutely devastated with bad trade deals. So he was right about that, but we got a lot of Bernie support. So actually, I like Bernie. OK? I like Bernie.

"But I'm here today to tell you what this movement means for the future of the Republican Party and for the future of America. First we need to define what this great, great unprecedented movement is and what it actually represents. The core conviction of our movement is that we are a nation that put and will put its own citizens first.

"For too long, we've traded away our jobs to other countries. So terrible. We've defended other nations' borders while leaving ours wide open, anybody can come in. We're going to build a wall, don't worry about it. We're building the wall. We're building the wall. In fact, it's going to start soon. Way ahead of schedule, way ahead of schedule.

"Way, way, way ahead of schedule. It's going to start very soon. General Kelly by the way has done a fantastic job. Fantastic job he's done.

"And remember, we are getting the bad ones out. These are bad dudes. We're getting the bad ones out, OK? We're getting the bad – if you watch these people, it's like gee, that's so sad. We're getting bad people out of this country, people that shouldn't be whether it's drugs or murder or other things. We're getting bad ones out, those are the ones that go first and I said it from day one. Basically all I've done is keep my promise.

"We've spent trillions of dollars overseas, while allowing our own infrastructure to fall into total disrepair and decay. In the Middle East, we've spent as of four weeks ago, \$6 trillion. Think of it.

"And by the way, the Middle East is in – I mean, it's not even close, it's in much worse shape than it was 15 years ago. If our presidents would have gone to the beach for 15 years, we would be in much better shape than we are right now, that I can tell you."

***Trump: Republicans Will Change Obamacare To Make It "Much Better."*** The President continued, "Be a hell of a lot better. We could have rebuilt our country three times with that money. This is the situation that I inherited. I inherited a mess, believe me. We also inherited a failed health care law that threatens our medical system with absolute and total catastrophe. Now, I've been watching and nobody says it, but Obamacare doesn't work, folks. I mean, I could say, I could talk, it doesn't work.

"And now people are starting to develop a little warm heart, but the people that you're watching, they're not you. They're largely – many of them are the side that lost, you know they lost the election. It's like, how many elections do we have to have? They lost the election. But I always say, Obamacare doesn't work. And these same people two years ago and a year ago were complaining about Obamacare.

"And the bottom line, we're changing it. We're going to make it much better, we're going to make it less expensive. We're going to make it much better. Obamacare covers very few people – and remember, deduct from the number all of the people that had great health care that they loved that was taken away from them – it was taken away from them.

"Millions of people were very happy with their health care, they had their doctor, they had their plan. Remember the lie, 28 times. You could keep your doctor, you could keep your plan. Over and over and over again, you heard it. So we're going to repeal and replace Obamacare. And I tell Paul Ryan and all of the folks that we're working with very hard, Dr. Tom Price, very talented guy.

"But I tell them from a purely political standpoint, the single best thing we can do is nothing. Let it implode completely, it's already imploding. You see the carriers are all leaving. I mean, it's a disaster. But two years, don't do anything. The Democrats will come to us and beg for help, they'll beg and it's their problem. But it's not the right thing to do for the American people, it's not the right thing to do.

"We inherited a national debt that has doubled in eight years, think of it, \$20 trillion, it's doubled. We inherited a foreign policy marked by one disaster after another. We don't win anymore. When was the last time we won? Did we win a war? Did we win anything? Do we win anything? We're going to win. We're going on win big, folks. We're going to start winning again, believe me. We're gonna win."

***Trump: Border Wall Will Stop Flow Of Drugs, Illegal Immigrants.*** The President continued, "But we're taking a firm, bold and decisive measure, we have to, to turn things around. The era of empty talk is over, it's over.

"Now is the time for action. So let me tell you about the actions that we're taking right now to deliver on our promise to the American people and on my promise to make America great again. We've taken swift and strong action to secure the southern border of the United States and to begin the construction of a great, great border wall.

"By doing this, and with the help of our great border police, with the help of ICE, with the help of General Kelly and all of the people that are so passionate about this – our border patrol, I'll tell you what they do, they came and endorsed me, ICE came and endorsed me. They never endorsed a presidential candidate before, they might not even be allowed to.

"But they were disgusted with what they saw and we'll stop it. We'll stop the drugs from pouring into our nation and poisoning our youth. Pouring in. Pouring in.

"We get the drugs, they get the money. We get the problems, they get the cash. No good. No good. Going to stop. By stopping the flow of illegal immigration, we will save countless tax dollars, and that's so important because the tax – the dollars we're losing are beyond anything that you can imagine. And the tax dollars that can be used to rebuild struggling American communities, including our inner cities.

"We are also going to save countless American lives. As we speak today, immigration officers are finding the gang members, the drug dealers and the criminal aliens and throwing them the hell out of our country.

"And we will not let them back in. They're not coming back in, folks. They do, they're going to have bigger problems than they ever dreamt of.

"I'm also working with the Department of Justice to being reducing violent crime. I mean, can you believe what's happening in Chicago as an example? Two days ago, seven people were shot and I believe killed. Seven people, seven people, Chicago, a great American city, seven people shot and killed. We will support the incredible men and women of law enforcement.

"Thank you, and thank them. I've also followed through on my campaigning promise and withdrawn America from the Trans-Pacific Partnership. So that we can protect our economic freedom. And we're going to make trade deals, but we're going to do one on one, one on one, and if they misbehave, we terminate the deal and then they'll come back and we'll make a better deal. None of these big quagmire deals that are a disaster.

"Just take a look – by the way, take a look at NAFTA, one of the worst deals ever made by any country, having to do with economic development. It's economy un-development, as far as our country is concerned.

"We're preparing to repeal and replace the disaster known as Obamacare. We're going to save Americans from this crisis, and give them the access to the quality health care they need and deserve. We have authorized the construction, one day, of the Keystone and Dakota Access Pipelines.

"And issued a new rule – this took place while I was getting ready to sign. I said who makes the pipes for the pipeline? Well sir, it comes from all over the world, isn't that wonderful? I said nope, comes from the United States, or we're not building it. ... American steel.

"If they want a pipeline in the United States, they're going to use pipe that's made in the United States. Do we agree? ... But can you imagine – I told this story the other day – can you imagine the gentleman – never met him, don't even know the name of this company. I actually sort of know it, but I want to get it exactly correct. Big, big powerful company, they spend hundreds of millions of dollars on the pipeline, same thing with the Dakota, different vice. They

got their approvals, everything, in the case of Dakota, then all of a sudden they couldn't connect it because they had people protesting that never showed up before.

"But with the Keystone – so they spent hundreds of millions of dollars with bloodsucker consultants – you know, sucking the blood out of the company, don't worry, I've used them all my life, OK? Don't worry, we're going to get it approved, I'm connected, I'm a lobbyist, don't worry. Bottom line, Obama didn't sign it, right? Could be 42,000 jobs, somewhere around there – a lot of jobs. Didn't sign it.

"But can you imagine, he gave up. A year ago, it was dead, now he's doing anything, calling his wife, hello darling, I'm a little bored, you know that pipeline that has killed us, that has killed our company. Knock, knock. Mr. so and so, the Keystone Pipeline sir, out of nowhere has just been approved.

"Now, can you imagine the expression? And you know the sad part? Those same blood sucking consultants that hit them for all the money and failed, they're now going to go back to him and say, did we do a great job; we want more money, right? Because that's the way the system works, a little bit off, but that's the way the system works.

"We're preparing bold action to lift the restrictions on American energy, including shale oil, natural gas and beautiful clean coal and we're going to put our miners back to work. Miners are going back to work, folks. Sorry to tell you that, but they're going back to work. We have begun a historic program to reduce the regulations that are crushing our economy, crushing. And not only our economy, crushing our jobs because companies can't hire. We're going to put the regulation industry out of work and out of business.

"And by the way, I want regulation. I want to protect our environment, I want regulations for safety, I want all of the regulations that we need and I want them to be so strong and so tough, but we don't need 75 percent of the repetitive, horrible regulations that hurt companies, hurt jobs, make us non-competitive overseas with other companies from other countries, that we don't need.

"But we're going to have regulation. It's going to be really strong and really good and we're going to protect our environment and we're going to protect the safety of our people and our workers, OK?

"Another major promise is tax reform. We're going to massively lower taxes on the middle class, reduce taxes on American business and make our tax code more simple and much more fair for everyone, including the people and the business.

"In anticipation of these and other changes, jobs are already starting to pour back into our country, you see that. In fact, I think I did more than any other pre-president, they say president-elect. President-elect is meeting with Ford, he's meeting with Chrysler, he's meeting with General Motors. I just wanted to save a little time.

"Because Ford and Fiat Chrysler, General Motors, Sprint, Intel, and so many others are now, because of the election result, making major investments in the United States, expanding production and hiring more workers. And they're going back to Michigan and they're going back to Ohio and they're going back to Pennsylvania and they're going back to North Carolina and to Florida.

"It's time for all Americans to get off of welfare and get back to work, you're going to love it, you're going to love it, you're going to love it. We're also put nothing a massive budget request for our beloved military.

"And we will be substantially upgrading all of our military, all of our military, offensive, defensive, everything, bigger and better and stronger than ever before. And hopefully, we'll never have to use it, but nobody's gonna mess with us, folks, nobody.

"It will be one of the greatest military build-ups in American history. No one will dare question as they have been because we're very depleted, very, very depleted. Sequester.



Sequester. Nobody will dare question our military might again. We believe in peace through strength and that's what we will have."

**Trump: US Will "Eradicate" ISIS.** The President continued, "As part of my pledge to restore safety for the American people, I have also directed the defense community to develop a plan to totally obliterate ISIS. Working with our allies, we will eradicate this evil from the face of the Earth.

"At the same time, we fully understand that national security begins with border security; foreign terrorists will not be able to strike America if they cannot get into our country. By the way, take a look at what's happening in Europe, folks, take a look at what's happening in Europe. I took a lot of heat on Sweden.

"And then a day later, I said has anybody reported what's going on? And it turned out that they didn't – not too many of them did. Take a look at what happened in Sweden. I love Sweden, great country, great people, I love Sweden. But they understand. The people over there understand I'm right. Take a look at what's happening in Sweden. Take a look at what's happening in Germany. Take a look at what's happened in France. Take a look at Nice and Paris.

"I have a friend, he's a very, very substantial guy. He loves the city of lights, he loves Paris. For years, every year during the summer, he would go to Paris, was automatic with his wife and his family. Hadn't seen him in a while. And I said, Jim, let me ask you a question, how's Paris doing? 'Paris? I don't go there anymore, Paris is no longer Paris.' That was four years – four or five years hasn't gone there. He wouldn't miss it for anything. Now he doesn't even think in terms of going there.

"Take a look at what's happening to our world, folks. And we have to be smart. We have to be smart. We can't let it happen to us. So let me state this as clearly as I can, we are going to keep radical Islamic terrorists the hell out of our country.

"We will not be deterred from this course, and in a matter of days, we will be taking brand-new action to protect our people and keep America safe, you will see the action. I will never ever apologize for protecting the safety and security of the American people, I won't do it.

"If it means I get bad press, if it means people speak badly of me, it's OK, doesn't bother me. The security of our people is number one, is number one. Our administration is running with great efficiency, even though I still don't have my Cabinet approved, nobody mentions that.

"You know, I still have people out there waiting to be approved and everyone knows they're gonna be approved. It's just a delay, delay, delay, it's really sad, it's really sad. And these are great people, these are some great people. We still don't have our Cabinet. I assume we're setting records for that. That's the only thing good about it is we're setting records. I love setting records.

"But I hate having a Cabinet meeting and I see all these empty seats. I said, Democrats, please approve our Cabinet and get smart on health care, too, if you don't mind. But we're taking meetings everyday with top leaders in business, in science and industry. Yesterday, I had 29 of the biggest business leaders in the world in my office; Caterpillar, Tractor, Campbell's Soup. We had everybody. We had everybody. I like Campbell's Soup.

"We had everybody and we came to a lot of very good conclusions and a lot of those folks that are in that room are gonna be building big, big, massive new plants and lots of jobs. And you know what? They're gonna be building them in this country, not in some other country.

"We're meeting with unions, meeting with law enforcement and we're meeting with leaders from all around where the White House doors used to be totally closed. They were closed, folks. You don't realize that, they were closed. They're now wide open and they're open for people doing business for our country and putting people to work.

"And when they come into the White House, we're translating these meetings into action. One by one, we're checking off the promises we made to the people of the United States. One by

one, a lot of promises. And we will not stop until the job is done. We will reduce your taxes, we will cut your regulations, we will support our police, we will defend our flag.

"We will rebuild our military. We will take care of our great, great veterans. We're taking care of our veterans. We will fix our broken and embarrassing trade deals that are no good. None of them. You wonder where did the people come from that negotiated these deals. Where did they come from? Well, they came also from campaign contributions, I must be honest. They're not as stupid as you think.

"We will cut wasteful spending. We will promote our values. We will rebuild our inner cities. We will bring back our jobs and our dreams. So true. So true. And by the way, we will protect our Second Amendment.

"You know, Wayne and Chris are here from the NRA and they didn't have that on the list. It's lucky I thought about it. But we will indeed, and they're great people. And by the way, they love our country. They love our country. The NRA has been a great supporter. They love our country."

**Trump: Republican Party Will Be Party "Of The American Worker."** The President continued, "The forgotten men and women of America will be forgotten no longer. That is the heart of this new movement and the future of the Republican Party. People came to vote, and these people, the media, they said where are they coming from? What's going on here? These are hard-working, great, great Americans. These are unbelievable people who have not been treated fairly. Hillary called them deplorable. They're not deplorable. ... Who would have thought that a word was gonna play so badly? That's the problem in politics. One wrong word and it's over. She also said irredeemable, but we won't mention that.

"The GOP will be, from now on, the party also of the American worker. You know, we haven't been as a group given credit for this, but if you look at how much bigger our party has gotten during this cycle, during the early days when we had 17 people running in the primaries. Millions and millions of people were joining. Now, I won't say it was because of me, but it was. OK?

"And we have an amazing, strong, powerful party that truly does want to see America be great again, and it will see it and it's gonna see it a lot sooner than you think, believe me, a lot sooner than you think. We will not answer to donors or lobbyists, or special interests, but we will serve the citizens of the United States of America, believe me."

**Trump: I Don't Represent "The Globe," I Represent America.** The President added, "Global cooperation, dealing with other countries, getting along with other countries is good, it's very important. But there is no such thing as a global anthem, a global currency or a global flag. This is the United States of America that I'm representing. I'm not representing the globe, I'm representing your country.

"There's one allegiance that unites us all, and that is to America. America, it's the allegiance to America. No matter our background or income, or geography, we're all citizens of this blessed land. And no matter our color or the blood – the color of the blood we bleed, it's the same red blood of great, great patriots. Remember, great patriots.

"We all salute with pride, the same American flag, and we all are equal – totally equal in the eyes of almighty God, we're equal. Thank you. And I want to thank, by the way, the Evangelical community, the Christian community.

"Communities of faith, rabbis and priests and pastors, ministers, because the support for me was a record, as you know, not only in terms of numbers of people, but percentage of those numbers that voted for Trump. So I want to thank you folks, that was amazing – an amazing outpour...and I will not disappoint you. As long as we have faith in each other and trust in God, then there is no goal at all beyond our reach. There is no dream too large, no task too great, we are Americans and the future belongs to us.

"The future belongs to all of you. And America is coming about, and it's coming back, and it's roaring and you can hear it. It's going to be bigger and better. It is going to be – it is going to be – remember and it's roaring. It's going to be bigger and better and stronger than ever before.

"I want to thank you. And Matt and Mercedes, I want to thank the two of you, and all of the supporters that I have. I see them; they're all over the place. You are really great people. I want to thank you.

And I want to say to you, God bless you and God bless the United States of America. Thank you, folks. Thank you."

### **Trump Says Presidential Win Was Victory For Conservative Values.**

President Trump followed up his CPAC speech with a series of tweets from his @POTUS handle that linked to longer statements on his official Facebook page that highlight points from his CPAC speech. In the first, Trump said, "The media didn't think we would win. The pundits didn't think we would win. The consultants didn't think we would win. But they all underestimated the power of the people – and the people proved them all wrong. Never underestimate the people. #CPAC2017"

In the second, Trump says, "Our victory was a win for every hardworking citizen in this country who believes in freedom, security and the rule of law. Our victory was a win for conservative values. And our victory was a win for everyone who believes it is time to stand up for America, to stand up for the American Worker, and to stand up for the American Flag. We are all part of this historic movement – a movement the likes of which the world has never seen before!"

In the third, Trump says, "We are preparing to #RepealAndReplace the disaster known as #Obamacare – we are going to save Americans from this crisis, and give them the access to the quality healthcare they deserve!"

In the fourth, Trump says, "We are going to massively lower taxes on the middle class, reduce taxes on American business, and make our tax code more simple and fair for everyone. In anticipation of these and other changes, jobs are already starting to pour back into our country. Ford, Fiat Chrysler, General Motors, Sprint, Intel and so many others are making major investments in the United States – expanding production, hiring more workers. It is time to get Americans off of welfare and back to work."

In the fifth, Trump says, "We are also putting in a massive budget request for the military, and we will be substantially upgrading all of our defenses. It will be one of the greatest military buildups in American history. No one will dare to question our military might. We believe in Peace Through Strength."

In the sixth, Trump says, "As part of my pledge to restore safety for the American People, I have also directed the Defense Community to develop a plan to destroy ISIS. Working with our allies, we will eradicate this evil from the face of the Earth. At the same time, we understand that national security begins with border security. Foreign terrorists will not be able to strike America if they cannot get into America. So let me state this as clearly as I can: we are going to keep Radical Islamic Terrorists out of our country. We will not be deterred from this course. And, in a matter of days, we will be taking brand new action to protect our people and keep America Safe. I will never, ever apologize for protecting the safety and security of the American People."

In the seventh, Trump says, "We inherited a national debt that has doubled in eight years. We inherited a foreign policy marked by one disaster after another. But we are taking firm, bold and decisive measures to turn it all around. The era of empty talk is over. Now is the time for action. So let me tell you about the actions we are taking right now to deliver on our promises to the American People."

In the eighth, Trump says, "One by one, we are checking off the promises we made to the people of the United States. And we will not stop until the job is done.

- We will reduce taxes.
- We will cut regulations.
- We will support our police.
- We will defend our flag.
- We will rebuild our military.
- We will take care of our Veterans.
- We will fix our trade deals.
- We will cut wasteful spending.
- We will promote our values.
- We will rebuild our inner cities.
- And we will bring back our jobs and our dreams.

"The forgotten men and women of America will be forgotten no longer. That is the heart of this new movement – and the future of the Republican Party. The GOP will be the party of the American Worker. We will not answer to donors or lobbyists or special interests – but we will serve the citizens of the United States of America. Global cooperation is important. But there is no such thing as a global anthem, a global currency, or a global flag. There is one allegiance that unites us all, and that is our allegiance to America. No matter our background, or income, or geography – we are all citizens of this blessed land. And no matter our color, we all bleed the same red blood of patriots. We all salute the same American Flag. And we are all made equal by the same Almighty God. As long as we have faith in each other, and trust in God, then there is no goal beyond our reach. There is no dream too large, no task too great. We are Americans. And the future belongs to us. The future belongs to all of you. And America is about to come roaring back – Bigger and Better and Stronger than ever before. Thank you, God Bless You, and God Bless the United States of America."

### **Trump Blasts FBI For Leaks As White House Challenges Reporting On Priebus-FBI Contacts.**

President Trump today reacted to the controversy over chief of staff Reince Priebus' contact with FBI officials over a New York Times story that alleged Trump's campaign was in frequent contact with Russian intelligence officials. Trump tweeted from his @realDonaldTrump handle, "The FBI is totally unable to stop the national security 'leakers' that have permeated our government for a long time. They can't even...find the leakers within the FBI itself. Classified information is being given to media that could have a devastating effect on US. FIND NOW" The President also tweeted an abbreviated version of the statement from his @POTUS handle, with a link to the complete statement on Facebook.

The story is generating additional controversy after Priebus reportedly asked FBI Director James Comey and deputy director Andrew McCabe to address the New York Times report on February 15. White House officials say the FBI had raised concerns about the reporting in the anonymously-sourced story, but said the Bureau could not issue a public statement. The White House officials say McCabe and Comey said Priebus could refute the report publicly, which he did in Sunday show appearances on February 19. Democrats, however, say Priebus' contact with the FBI officials violated policies limiting communication between the Bureau and the White House on possible investigations.

Meanwhile, White House press secretary Sean Spicer blasted media coverage of the White House-FBI contacts, particularly CNN, saying, "What you guys have done is indefensible and inaccurate."

### **Trump Signs Executive Order To Reduce Federal Regulation.**

President Trump signed an executive order aimed at reducing Federal regulation with a group of corporate CEOs today. The order directs Federal agencies to establish regulatory reform task forces, to recommend regulations that should be eliminated or which can be simplified.

### **Trump Highlights Human Trafficking Event.**

President Trump today tweeted from his @realDonaldTrump handle today, "Trump vows to fight 'epidemic' of human trafficking." The tweet linked to an AP story on yesterday's event on Federal efforts to reduce human trafficking.

### **State Department To Resume Briefings In March.**

The State Department announced today that it will resume its regular press briefings the week of March 6. The last briefing was held on January 19, President Obama's final day in office.

### **Beshear To Give Democratic Response To Trump Address.**

Democrats have selected former Kentucky Gov. Steve Beshear to deliver the party's response to President Trump's Tuesday night speech to a joint session of Congress. Immigration activist Astrid Silva will also give the Spanish language response to Trump's address.

### **Soufan Group Warns Trump Preference For Small NSC Could Result In "Groupthink."**

The main task for the incoming national security adviser, Lt. Gen. H.R. McMaster, will be "to restore confidence in one of the most important bodies in the US national security apparatus," argues a new report out from the Soufan Group. But although McMaster "will set the pace and tone of the National Security Council (NSC)," which he will lead, "the council's size and composition is often a reflection of the president's personality and management style," the report notes. Currently, the organization "is understaffed and dogged by controversy over potential politicization and Michael Flynn's resignation." Created in 1947, the NSC was designed to be the chief coordinating body for executive branch national security policy. The national security adviser chairs the NSC's Principals Committee, the organization's highest cabinet-level body. Aside from a small handful of cabinet members and advisers whose membership is mandated by law, the president has the authority to add or remove members at will, and to drastically increase or decrease the size of the NSC's staff. Under President George H.W. Bush, the NSC staff numbered around 50, and under the Obama Administration that number grew to some 400. "Keeping the NSC membership restricted to a small group of trusted advisers and staff – the model reportedly preferred by President Trump – has the advantage of efficiency," the report concludes. "However, a small number of officials restricts the diversity of opinions voiced in the policymaking process, potentially exposing debate to the risk of groupthink or domination by strong personalities, and leaving relevant but less conventional policy options unconsidered."

### **ISIS Seeking Haven In Northwestern Afghanistan.**

ISIS is expanding into northwestern Afghanistan, warns a new report out from the Institute for the Study of War. Former Taliban militants operating in the name of ISIS have executed international aid workers and held other International Red Cross workers captive in a prison in the region, which marks a notable step in the terror group's operations in the country, the report adds. "ISIS

may increasingly use this hub to regenerate manpower as it suffers losses elsewhere, threatening US and NATO interests in multiple regions.” What’s more, “malign actors like Russia and Iran” could also use ISIS’ expansion in Afghanistan “to validate their support of Taliban militants and undermine the US and NATO.” The kidnappings come one month after local officials reported that ISIS destroyed homes and forced up to 60 families to leave local communities. “The establishment of a prison and population displacement are new developments for ISIS in northwestern Afghanistan, but typical of ISIS generally,” the report notes. The move “is the first indicator of social control by ISIS in Afghanistan outside of its strongholds” in the eastern part of the country. “The expansion of ISIS’ caliphate in Afghanistan would grant ISIS an additional logistical hub to receive and train foreign fighters as it becomes more difficult for foreign fighters to join ISIS in Iraq and Syria.”

### **CSIS Says Military Needs Officers With Both Operational, Tech Skills.**

A key theme in the 21st century has been the democratization of science and technology in national security – which means that top US military officers must get smarter about technology as well, warns a report out this morning from the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS). “High-technology weapons are no longer the exclusive domain of a few nations. Smaller states are expanding their arsenals and infusing advanced technologies into their war-fighting tactics, operations, and strategy.” As a result, it is vital to develop “a cadre of technologically competent officers with the requisite leadership and operational skills to excel in this fast-paced and ever-evolving environment,” the report argues. This will involve creating the next generation of leaders with both creative and critical thinking skills. “In short, what is needed is a system that allows a group of select officers to move between operational and S&T [science and technology] tracks throughout their careers,” the CSIS report adds. “The end goal is the creation of a cohort that has demonstrated excellence in both fields,” it concludes, adding that the report “strongly suggests that the entire [military] force be more sensitized to the S&T world, so that at a minimum, they will recognize the tactical, operational, and strategic applications of emerging sciences and technologies.”

### **Approval For Affordable Care Act Reaches 54% In Pew Survey.**

A Pew Research Center survey of 1,503 adults, conducted over February 7-12 shows:

- 54% approve of “the health care law passed by Barack Obama and Congress in 2010”; 43% disapprove; and 3% don’t know.
- 85% of Democrats approve of the law.
- 53% of independents approve of the law; 45% disapprove.
- 10% of Republicans approve of the law; 89% disapprove.

### **Kaiser Health Poll Shows 48% Think ACA Should Not Be Repealed.**

A Kaiser Health Tracking Poll of 1160 adults, conducted over February 13-19, shows:

- 48% have a favorable opinion of the Affordable Care Act; 42% have an unfavorable opinion.
- 48% say Congress should not repeal the ACA; 47% say Congress should repeal the law.

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TO: ADMINISTRATOR AND SENIOR EXECUTIVES

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**OFF THE WIRES:****New Home Sales Up Sharply, But Fail To Meet Forecasts.**

The Commerce Department reports today that new home sales rose 3.7 percent in January to an annual rate of 555,000 units, an increase of 5.5 percent from one year ago. Economist had expected a much higher increase of 6.3 percent to 570,000 units. Market inventory rose 3.5 percent to 265,000 units, and it would take 5.7 months to sell off existing inventory, the same as December.

**Consumer Sentiment Falls In January.** The University of Michigan reports today that its index of consumer sentiment fell from 98.5 in January to 96.3 in February. Economists had expected the index to come in at 96.

**IN THE WHITE HOUSE AND AROUND TOWN:****Trump Addresses CPAC In Well-Received "America First" Speech.**

President Trump today delivered remarks at the Conservative Political Action Conference today, where he addressed a wide range of

issues, targeted the media, and elaborated on his "America First" approach to governing. Trump said, "Great to be back at CPAC. It's a place I have really...I love this place. ... Love you people. So thank you – thank you very much. First of all, I want to thank Matt Schlapp and his very, very incredible wife, and boss, Mercedes, who have been fantastic friends and supporters and so great. When I watch them on television defending me, nobody has a chance. So I want to thank Matt and Mercedes.

"And when Matt called and asked I said, 'Absolutely I'll be there with you.' I mean, the real reason I said it, I didn't want him to go against me cause that...that one you can't beat. So I said absolutely. And it really is an honor to be here. I wouldn't miss a chance to talk to my friends. These are my friends.

"And we'll see you again next year and the year after that and I'll be doing this...I'll be doing this with CPAC whenever I can and I'll make sure that we're here a lot. ... You know if you remember my first major speech – sit down everybody. C'mon. ... You know the dishonest media they'll say, 'He didn't get a standing ovation.' You know why? ... No – you know why? Because everybody stood and nobody sat. So they will say, 'He never got a standing ovation,' right? They are the worst.

"So – sit down. ... 'Donald Trump did not get a standing ovation.' ... They leave out the part, 'They never sat down.' They leave that out.



"So I just want to thank – but you know my first major speak was at CPAC and – probably five or six years ago. First major political speech. And you were there. And it was – I loved it. I loved the people. I loved the commotion. And then they did these polls were I went through the roof and I wasn't even running, right? ...

"But it gave me an idea. And I got a little bit concerned when I saw what was happening in the country. And I said, 'Let's go to it.' So, it was very exciting. I walked the stage on CPAC. I'll never forget it, really. I had very little notes and even less preparation. So when you have practically no notes and no preparation and then you leave and everybody was thrilled, I said, 'I think I like this business.'

"I would've come last year but I was worried that I would be, at that time, too controversial. We wanted border security. We wanted very, very strong military. We wanted all of the things that we're going to get...and people consider that controversial but you didn't consider it controversial. So, I've been with CPAC for a long time. All of these years we've been together. And now you finally have a president, finally. Took you a long time. ... Took you a long time.

"And it's patriots like you that made it happen, believe me. Believe me. You did it because you love your country, because you want a better future for your children and because you want to make America great again. The media didn't think we would win. The...pundits – you're right. They had an idea. The pundits didn't think we'd win. The consultants that suck up all that money – oh, they suck it up. They're so good.

"They're not good at politics, but they're really good at sucking up people's money. Especially my opponents, because I kept them down to a minimum. But the consultants didn't think we would win. But they all underestimated the power of the people: You. And the people proved them... totally wrong. Never – and – and this is so true. And this is what's been happening. Never underestimate the people. Never. I don't think it'll ever happen again."

**Trump Doubles Down On "Fake News" Media Being "Enemy Of The People."** Trump continued, "And I want you all to know that we are fighting the fake news. It's fake, phony, fake. A few days ago I called the fake news the enemy of the people. And they are. They are the enemy of the people.

"Because they have no sources, they just make 'em up when there are none. I saw one story recently where they said, 'Nine people have confirmed.' There're no nine people. I don't believe there was one or two people. Nine people. And I said, 'Give me a break.' Because I know the people, I know who they talk to. There were no nine people.

"But they say 'nine people.' And somebody reads it and they think, 'Oh, nine people. They have nine sources.' They make up sources. They're very dishonest people. In fact, in covering my comments, the dishonest media did not explain that I called the fake news the enemy of the people. The fake

news. They dropped off the word 'fake.' And all of a sudden the story became the media is the enemy.

"They take the word 'fake' out. And now I'm saying, 'Oh no, this is no good.' But that's the way they are. So I'm not against the media, I'm not against the press. I don't mind bad stories if I deserve them. And I tell ya, I love good stories, but we don't go...I don't get too many of them.

"But I am only against the fake news, media or press. Fake, fake. They have to leave that word. I'm against the people that make up stories and make up sources. They shouldn't be allowed to use sources unless they use somebody's name. Let their name be put out there. Let their name be put out.

"A source says that Donald Trump is a horrible, horrible human being.' Let 'em say it to my face. Let there be no more sources.

"And remember this – and in not – in all cases. I mean, I had a story written yesterday about me in Reuters by a very honorable man. It was a very fair story. There are some great reporters around. They're talented, they're honest as the day is long. They're great.

"But there are some terrible dishonest people and they do a tremendous disservice to our country and to our people. A tremendous disservice. They are very dishonest people. And they shouldn't use sources. They should put the name of the person. You will see stories dry up like you've never seen before.

"So you have no idea how bad it is, because if you are not part of the story – and I put myself in your position sometimes. Because many of you, you're not part of the story. And if you're not part of the story, you know, then you, sort of, know – if you are part of the story, you know what they're saying is true or not.

"So when they make it up – and they make up something else, and you saw that before the election: polls, polls. The polls. They come out with these polls and everybody was so surprised. Actually, a couple polls got it right. I must say Los Angeles Times did a great job, shocking because, you know, they did a great job.

"And we had a couple of others that were right, but generally speaking, I mean, can tell you the network, somebody said a poll came out. And I say, what network is it? And they'll say, a certain – let's not even mention names, right? Shall we? ... Well, you have a lot of them. Look, the Clinton News Network is one.

"Totally. Take a look. Honestly. Take a look, honestly. Take a look at polls over the last two years. Now you'd think they would fire the pollster, right? After years and years of getting battered, but I – who knows, maybe they are just bad at polling or maybe they're not legit, but it's one or the other, look at how inaccurate – look at CBS, look at ABC, also, look at NBC, take a look at some of these polls. They're so bad, so inaccurate and what that does is it creates a false narrative.

"It creates like this narrative that is just like we're not going to win, people say, I love Trump, but you know, I'm not feeling great today, he can't win, so I won't go and vote. I won't go and vote. It creates a whole false deal. And we have to fight it, folks, we have to fight it. They're very smart, they're very cunning and they're very dishonest.

"So just to conclude, I mean, it's a very sensitive topic and they get upset when we expose their false stories. They say that we can't criticize their dishonest coverage because of the First Amendment, you know, they always bring up the First Amendment.

"And I love the First Amendment; nobody loves it better than me. Nobody. ... I mean, who use it more than I do? But the First Amendment gives all of us – it gives it to me, it gives it to you, it gives it to all Americans, the right to speak our minds freely. It gives you the right and me the right to criticize fake news and criticize it strongly.

"And many of these groups are part the large media corporations that have their own agenda and it's not your agenda and it's not the country's agenda, it's their own agenda. They have a professional obligation as members of the press to report honestly. But as you saw throughout the entire campaign, and even now, the fake news doesn't tell the truth. Doesn't tell the truth.

"So just in finishing, I say it doesn't represent the people, it doesn't tell the never will represent the people, and we're going to do something about it because we have to go out and have to speak our minds and we have to be honest. Our victory was a win like nobody has ever seen before.

"I'm here fighting for you and I will continue to fight for you. The victory and the win were something that really was dedicated to a country and people that believe in freedom, security and the rule of law. Our victory...was a victory and the win for conservative values.

"And our victory was a win for everyone who believes it's time to stand up for America, to stand up for the American worker and to stand up for the American flag. ... Yeah, there we should stand up. Come on. There we should stand up. OK. And by the way, we love our flag. By the way, you folks are in here – this place is packed, there are lines that go back six blocks and I tell you that because you won't read about it, OK.

"But there are lines that go back six blocks, there is such love in this country for everything we stand for, you saw that on Election Day. And you're going to see it more and more."

**Trump: Movement Will Define The Future Of The Republican Party As Putting America First.** The President continued, "So we're all part of this very historic movement, a movement the likes of which, actually, the world has never seen before. There's never been anything like this. There's been some movements, but there's never been anything like this. There's been some movements that petered out like Bernie, petered out.

"But it was a little rigged against him, you know, super delegate, super delegate. She had so many delegates before the thing even started, I actually said to my people, how does that happen? Not that I'm a fan of Bernie, but a lot of Bernie people voted for Trump, you know why? Because he's right on one issue; trade. He was right about trade. Our country is being absolutely devastated with bad trade deals. So he was right about that, but we got a lot of Bernie support. So actually, I like Bernie. OK? I like Bernie.

"But I'm here today to tell you what this movement means for the future of the Republican Party and for the future of America. First we need to define what this great, great unprecedented movement is and what it actually represents. The core conviction of our movement is that we are a nation that put and will put its own citizens first.

"For too long, we've traded away our jobs to other countries. So terrible. We've defended other nations' borders while leaving ours wide open, anybody can come in. We're going to build a wall, don't worry about it. We're building the wall. We're building the wall. In fact, it's going to start soon. Way ahead of schedule, way ahead of schedule.

"Way, way, way ahead of schedule. It's going to start very soon. General Kelly by the way has done a fantastic job. Fantastic job he's done.

"And remember, we are getting the bad ones out. These are bad dudes. We're getting the bad ones out, OK? We're getting the bad – if you watch these people, it's like gee, that's so sad. We're getting bad people out of this country, people that shouldn't be whether it's drugs or murder or other things. We're getting bad ones out, those are the ones that go first and I said it from day one. Basically all I've done is keep my promise.

"We've spent trillions of dollars overseas, while allowing our own infrastructure to fall into total disrepair and decay. In the Middle East, we've spent as of four weeks ago, \$6 trillion. Think of it.

"And by the way, the Middle East is in – I mean, it's not even close, it's in much worse shape than it was 15 years ago. If our presidents would have gone to the beach for 15 years, we would be in much better shape than we are right now, that I can tell you."

**Trump: Republicans Will Change Obamacare To Make It "Much Better."** The President continued, "Be a hell of a lot better. We could have rebuilt our country three times with that money. This is the situation that I inherited. I inherited a mess, believe me. We also inherited a failed health care law that threatens our medical system with absolute and total catastrophe. Now, I've been watching and nobody says it, but Obamacare doesn't work, folks. I mean, I could say, I could talk, it doesn't work.

"And now people are starting to develop a little warm heart, but the people that you're watching, they're not you. They're largely – many of them are the side that lost, you know they lost the election. It's like, how many elections do

we have to have? They lost the election. But I always say, Obamacare doesn't work. And these same people two years ago and a year ago were complaining about Obamacare.

"And the bottom line, we're changing it. We're going to make it much better, we're going to make it less expensive. We're going to make it much better. Obamacare covers very few people – and remember, deduct from the number all of the people that had great health care that they loved that was taken away from them – it was taken away from them.

"Millions of people were very happy with their health care, they had their doctor, they had their plan. Remember the lie, 28 times. You could keep your doctor, you could keep your plan. Over and over and over again, you heard it. So we're going to repeal and replace Obamacare. And I tell Paul Ryan and all of the folks that we're working with very hard, Dr. Tom Price, very talented guy.

"But I tell them from a purely political standpoint, the single best thing we can do is nothing. Let it implode completely, it's already imploding. You see the carriers are all leaving. I mean, it's a disaster. But two years, don't do anything. The Democrats will come to us and beg for help, they'll beg and it's their problem. But it's not the right thing to do for the American people, it's not the right thing to do.

"We inherited a national debt that has doubled in eight years, think of it, \$20 trillion, it's doubled. We inherited a foreign policy marked by one disaster after another. We don't win anymore. When was the last time we won? Did we win a war? Did we win anything? Do we win anything? We're going to win. We're going on win big, folks. We're going to start winning again, believe me. We're gonna win."

**Trump: Border Wall Will Stop Flow Of Drugs, Illegal Immigrants.** The President continued, "But we're taking a firm, bold and decisive measure, we have to, to turn things around. The era of empty talk is over, it's over.

"Now is the time for action. So let me tell you about the actions that we're taking right now to deliver on our promise to the American people and on my promise to make America great again. We've taken swift and strong action to secure the southern border of the United States and to begin the construction of a great, great border wall.

"By doing this, and with the help of our great border police, with the help of ICE, with the help of General Kelly and all of the people that are so passionate about this – our border patrol, I'll tell you what they do, they came and endorsed me, ICE came and endorsed me. They never endorsed a presidential candidate before, they might not even be allowed to.

"But they were disgusted with what they saw and we'll stop it. We'll stop the drugs from pouring into our nation and poisoning our youth. Pouring in. Pouring in.

"We get the drugs, they get the money. We get the problems, they get the cash. No good. No good. Going to stop. By stopping the flow of illegal immigration, we will save countless tax dollars, and that's so important because the tax

– the dollars we're losing are beyond anything that you can imagine. And the tax dollars that can be used to rebuild struggling American communities, including our inner cities.

"We are also going to save countless American lives. As we speak today, immigration offers are finding the gang members, the drug dealers and the criminal aliens and throwing them the hell out of our country.

"And we will not let them back in. They're not coming back in, folks. They do, they're going to have bigger problems than they ever dreamt of.

"I'm also working with the Department of Justice to being reducing violent crime. I mean, can you believe what's happening in Chicago as an example? Two days ago, seven people were shot and I believe killed. Seven people, seven people, Chicago, a great American city, seven people shot and killed. We will support the incredible men and women of law enforcement.

"Thank you, and thank them. I've also followed through on my campaigning promise and withdrawn America from the Trans-Pacific Partnership. So that we can protect our economic freedom. And we're going to make trade deals, but we're going to do one on one, one on one, and if they misbehave, we terminate the deal and then they'll come back and we'll make a better deal. None of these big quagmire deals that are a disaster.

"Just take a look – by the way, take a look at NAFTA, one of the worst deals ever made by any country, having to do with economic development. It's economy undevelopment, as far as our country is concerned.

"We're preparing to repeal and replace the disaster known as Obamacare. We're going to save Americans from this crisis, and give them the access to the quality health care they need and deserve. We have authorized the construction, one day, of the Keystone and Dakota Access Pipelines.

"And issued a new rule – this took place while I was getting ready to sign. I said who makes the pipes for the pipeline? Well sir, it comes from all over the world, isn't that wonderful? I said nope, comes from the United States, or we're not building it. ... American steel.

"If they want a pipeline in the United States, they're going to use pipe that's made in the United States. Do we agree? ... But can you imagine – I told this story the other day – can you imagine the gentleman – never met him, don't even know the name of this company. I actually sort of know it, but I want to get it exactly correct. Big, big powerful company, they spend hundreds of millions of dollars on the pipeline, same thing with the Dakota, different vice. They got their approvals, everything, in the case of Dakota, then all of a sudden they couldn't connect it because they had people protesting that never showed up before.

"But with the Keystone – so they spent hundreds of millions of dollars with bloodsucker consultants – you know, sucking the blood out of the company, don't worry, I've used them all my life, OK? Don't worry, we're going to get it

approved, I'm connected, I'm a lobbyist, don't worry. Bottom line, Obama didn't sign it, right? Could be 42,000 jobs, somewhere around there – a lot of jobs. Didn't sign it.

"But can you imagine, he gave up. A year ago, it was dead, now he's doing anything, calling his wife, hello darling, I'm a little bored, you know that pipeline that has killed us, that has killed our company. Knock, knock. Mr. so and so, the Keystone Pipeline sir, out of nowhere has just been approved.

"Now, can you imagine the expression? And you know the sad part? Those same blood sucking consultants that hit them for all the money and failed, they're now going to go back to him and say, did we do a great job; we want more money, right? Because that's the way the system works, a little bit off, but that's the way the system works.

"We're preparing bold action to lift the restrictions on American energy, including shale oil, natural gas and beautiful clean coal and we're going to put our miners back to work. Miners are going back to work, folks. Sorry to tell you that, but they're going back to work. We have begun a historic program to reduce the regulations that are crushing our economy, crushing. And not only our economy, crushing our jobs because companies can't hire. We're going to put the regulation industry out of work and out of business.

"And by the way, I want regulation. I want to protect our environment, I want regulations for safety, I want all of the regulations that we need and I want them to be so strong and so tough, but we don't need 75 percent of the repetitive, horrible regulations that hurt companies, hurt jobs, make us non-competitive overseas with other companies from other countries, that we don't need.

"But we're going to have regulation. It's going to be really strong and really good and we're going to protect our environment and we're going to protect the safety of our people and our workers, OK?

"Another major promise is tax reform. We're going to massively lower taxes on the middle class, reduce taxes on American business and make our tax code more simple and much more fair for everyone, including the people and the business.

"In anticipation of these and other changes, jobs are already starting to pour back into our country, you see that. In fact, I think I did more than any other pre-president, they say president-elect. President-elect is meeting with Ford, he's meeting with Chrysler, he's meeting with General Motors. I just wanted to save a little time.

"Because Ford and Fiat Chrysler, General Motors, Sprint, Intel, and so many others are now, because of the election result, making major investments in the United States, expanding production and hiring more workers. And they're going back to Michigan and they're going back to Ohio and they're going back to Pennsylvania and they're going back to North Carolina and to Florida.

"It's time for all Americans to get off of welfare and get back to work, you're going to love it, you're going to love it, you're going to love it. We're also put nothing a massive budget request for our beloved military.

"And we will be substantially upgrading all of our military, all of our military, offensive, defensive, everything, bigger and better and stronger than ever before. And hopefully, we'll never have to use it, but nobody's gonna mess with us, folks, nobody.

"It will be one of the greatest military build-ups in American history. No one will dare question as they have been because we're very depleted, very, very depleted. Sequester. Sequester. Nobody will dare question our military might again. We believe in peace through strength and that's what we will have."

**Trump: US Will "Eradicate" ISIS.** The President continued, "As part of my pledge to restore safety for the American people, I have also directed the defense community to develop a plan to totally obliterate ISIS. Working with our allies, we will eradicate this evil from the face of the Earth.

"At the same time, we fully understand that national security begins with border security; foreign terrorists will not be able to strike America if they cannot get into our country. By the way, take a look at what's happening in Europe, folks, take a look at what's happening in Europe. I took a lot of heat on Sweden.

"And then a day later, I said has anybody reported what's going on? And it turned out that they didn't – not too many of them did. Take a look at what happened in Sweden. I love Sweden, great country, great people, I love Sweden. But they understand. The people over there understand I'm right. Take a look at what's happening in Sweden. Take a look at what's happening in Germany. Take a look at what's happened in France. Take a look at Nice and Paris.

"I have a friend, he's a very, very substantial guy. He loves the city of lights, he loves Paris. For years, every year during the summer, he would go to Paris, was automatic with his wife and his family. Hadn't seen him in a while. And I said, Jim, let me ask you a question, how's Paris doing? 'Paris? I don't go there anymore, Paris is no longer Paris.' That was four years – four or five years hasn't gone there. He wouldn't miss it for anything. Now he doesn't even think in terms of going there.

"Take a look at what's happening to our world, folks. And we have to be smart. We have to be smart. We can't let it happen to us. So let me state this as clearly as I can, we are going to keep radical Islamic terrorists the hell out of our country.

"We will not be deterred from this course, and in a matter of days, we will be taking brand-new action to protect our people and keep America safe, you will see the action. I will never ever apologize for protecting the safety and security of the American people, I won't do it.

"If it means I get bad press, if it means people speak badly of me, it's OK, doesn't bother me. The security of our people is number one, is number one. Our administration is running with great efficiency, even though I still don't have my Cabinet approved, nobody mentions that.

"You know, I still have people out there waiting to be approved and everyone knows they're gonna be approved. It's just a delay, delay, delay, it's really sad, it's really sad. And these are great people, these are some great people. We still don't have our Cabinet. I assume we're setting records for that. That's the only thing good about it is we're setting records. I love setting records.

"But I hate having a Cabinet meeting and I see all these empty seats. I said, Democrats, please approve our Cabinet and get smart on health care, too, if you don't mind. But we're taking meetings everyday with top leaders in business, in science and industry. Yesterday, I had 29 of the biggest business leaders in the world in my office; Caterpillar, Tractor, Campbell's Soup. We had everybody. We had everybody. I like Campbell's Soup.

"We had everybody and we came to a lot of very good conclusions and a lot of those folks that are in that room are gonna be building big, big, massive new plants and lots of jobs. And you know what? They're gonna be building them in this country, not in some other country.

"We're meeting with unions, meeting with law enforcement and we're meeting with leaders from all around where the White House doors used to be totally closed. They were closed, folks. You don't realize that, they were closed. They're now wide open and they're open for people doing business for our country and putting people to work.

"And when they come into the White House, we're translating these meetings into action. One by one, we're checking off the promises we made to the people of the United States. One by one, a lot of promises. And we will not stop until the job is done. We will reduce your taxes, we will cut your regulations, we will support our police, we will defend our flag.

"We will rebuild our military. We will take care of our great, great veterans. We're taking care of our veterans. We will fix our broken and embarrassing trade deals that are no good. None of them. You wonder where did the people come from that negotiated these deals. Where did they come from? Well, they came also from campaign contributions, I must be honest. They're not as stupid as you think.

"We will cut wasteful spending. We will promote our values. We will rebuild our inner cities. We will bring back our jobs and our dreams. So true. So true. And by the way, we will protect our Second Amendment.

"You know, Wayne and Chris are here from the NRA and they didn't have that on the list. It's lucky I thought about it. But we will indeed, and they're great people. And by the way, they love our country. They love our country. The NRA has been a great supporter. They love our country."

**Trump: Republican Party Will Be Party "Of The American Worker."** The President continued, "The forgotten men and women of America will be forgotten no longer. That is the heart of this new movement and the future of the Republican Party. People came to vote, and these people, the media, they said where are they coming from? What's going on here? These are hard-working, great, great Americans. These are unbelievable people who have not been treated fairly. Hillary called them deplorable. They're not deplorable. ... Who would have thought that a word was gonna play so badly? That's the problem in politics. One wrong word and it's over. She also said irredeemable, but we won't mention that.

"The GOP will be, from now on, the party also of the American worker. You know, we haven't been as a group given credit for this, but if you look at how much bigger our party has gotten during this cycle, during the early days when we had 17 people running in the primaries. Millions and millions of people were joining. Now, I won't say it was because of me, but it was. OK?

"And we have an amazing, strong, powerful party that truly does want to see America be great again, and it will see it and it's gonna see it a lot sooner than you think, believe me, a lot sooner than you think. We will not answer to donors or lobbyists, or special interests, but we will serve the citizens of the United States of America, believe me."

**Trump: I Don't Represent "The Globe," I Represent America.** The President added, "Global cooperation, dealing with other countries, getting along with other countries is good, it's very important. But there is no such thing as a global anthem, a global currency or a global flag. This is the United States of America that I'm representing. I'm not representing the globe, I'm representing your country.

"There's one allegiance that unites us all, and that is to America. America, it's the allegiance to America. No matter our background or income, or geography, we're all citizens of this blessed land. And no matter our color or the blood – the color of the blood we bleed, it's the same red blood of great, great patriots. Remember, great patriots.

"We all salute with pride, the same American flag, and we all are equal – totally equal in the eyes of almighty God, we're equal. Thank you. And I want to thank, by the way, the Evangelical community, the Christian community.

"Communities of faith, rabbis and priests and pastors, ministers, because the support for me was a record, as you know, not only in terms of numbers of people, but percentage of those numbers that voted for Trump. So I want to thank you folks, that was amazing – an amazing outpour...and I will not disappoint you. As long as we have faith in each other and trust in God, then there is no goal at all beyond our reach. There is no dream too large, no task too great, we are Americans and the future belongs to us.

"The future belongs to all of you. And America is coming about, and it's coming back, and it's roaring and you

can hear it. It's going to be bigger and better. It is going to be – it is going to be – remember and it's roaring. It's going to be bigger and better and stronger than ever before.

"I want to thank you. And Matt and Mercedes, I want to thank the two of you, and all of the supporters that I have. I see them; they're all over the place. You are really great people. I want to thank you.

And I want to say to you, God bless you and God bless the United States of America. Thank you, folks. Thank you."

### **Trump Says Presidential Win Was Victory For Conservative Values.**

President Trump followed up his CPAC speech with a series of tweets from his @POTUS handle that linked to longer statements on his official Facebook page that highlight points from his CPAC speech. In the first, Trump said, "The media didn't think we would win. The pundits didn't think we would win. The consultants didn't think we would win. But they all underestimated the power of the people – and the people proved them all wrong. Never underestimate the people. #CPAC2017"

In the second, Trump says, "Our victory was a win for every hardworking citizen in this country who believes in freedom, security and the rule of law. Our victory was a win for conservative values. And our victory was a win for everyone who believes it is time to stand up for America, to stand up for the American Worker, and to stand up for the American Flag. We are all part of this historic movement – a movement the likes of which the world has never seen before!"

In the third, Trump says, "We are preparing to #RepealAndReplace the disaster known as #Obamacare – we are going to save Americans from this crisis, and give them the access to the quality healthcare they deserve!"

In the fourth, Trump says, "We are going to massively lower taxes on the middle class, reduce taxes on American business, and make our tax code more simple and fair for everyone. In anticipation of these and other changes, jobs are already starting to pour back into our country. Ford, Fiat Chrysler, General Motors, Sprint, Intel and so many others are making major investments in the United States – expanding production, hiring more workers. It is time to get Americans off of welfare and back to work."

In the fifth, Trump says, "We are also putting in a massive budget request for the military, and we will be substantially upgrading all of our defenses. It will be one of the greatest military buildups in American history. No one will dare to question our military might. We believe in Peace Through Strength."

In the sixth, Trump says, "As part of my pledge to restore safety for the American People, I have also directed the Defense Community to develop a plan to destroy ISIS. Working with our allies, we will eradicate this evil from the face of the Earth. At the same time, we understand that national security begins with border security. Foreign

terrorists will not be able to strike America if they cannot get into America. So let me state this as clearly as I can: we are going to keep Radical Islamic Terrorists out of our country. We will not be deterred from this course. And, in a matter of days, we will be taking brand new action to protect our people and keep America Safe. I will never, ever apologize for protecting the safety and security of the American People."

In the seventh, Trump says, "We inherited a national debt that has doubled in eight years. We inherited a foreign policy marked by one disaster after another. But we are taking firm, bold and decisive measures to turn it all around. The era of empty talk is over. Now is the time for action. So let me tell you about the actions we are taking right now to deliver on our promises to the American People."

In the eighth, Trump says, "One by one, we are checking off the promises we made to the people of the United States. And we will not stop until the job is done.

- We will reduce taxes.
- We will cut regulations.
- We will support our police.
- We will defend our flag.
- We will rebuild our military.
- We will take care of our Veterans.
- We will fix our trade deals.
- We will cut wasteful spending.
- We will promote our values.
- We will rebuild our inner cities.
- And we will bring back our jobs and our dreams.

"The forgotten men and women of America will be forgotten no longer. That is the heart of this new movement – and the future of the Republican Party. The GOP will be the party of the American Worker. We will not answer to donors or lobbyists or special interests – but we will serve the citizens of the United States of America. Global cooperation is important. But there is no such thing as a global anthem, a global currency, or a global flag. There is one allegiance that unites us all, and that is our allegiance to America. No matter our background, or income, or geography – we are all citizens of this blessed land. And no matter our color, we all bleed the same red blood of patriots. We all salute the same American Flag. And we are all made equal by the same Almighty God. As long as we have faith in each other, and trust in God, then there is no goal beyond our reach. There is no dream too large, no task too great. We are Americans. And the future belongs to us. The future belongs to all of you. And America is about to come roaring back – Bigger and Better and Stronger than ever before. Thank you, God Bless You, and God Bless the United States of America."

### **Trump Blasts FBI For Leaks As White House Challenges Reporting On Priebus-FBI Contacts.**

President Trump today reacted to the controversy over chief of staff Reince Priebus' contact with

FBI officials over a New York Times story that alleged Trump's campaign was in frequent contact with Russian intelligence officials. Trump tweeted from his @realDonaldTrump handle, "The FBI is totally unable to stop the national security 'leakers' that have permeated our government for a long time. They can't even...find the leakers within the FBI itself. Classified information is being given to media that could have a devastating effect on US. FIND NOW" The President also tweeted an abbreviated version of the statement from his @POTUS handle, with a link to the complete statement on Facebook.

The story is generating additional controversy after Priebus reportedly asked FBI Director James Comey and deputy director Andrew McCabe to address the New York Times report on February 15. White House officials say the FBI had raised concerns about the reporting in the anonymously-sourced story, but said the Bureau could not issue a public statement. The White House officials say McCabe and Comey said Priebus could refute the report publicly, which he did in Sunday show appearances on February 19. Democrats, however, say Priebus' contact with the FBI officials violated policies limiting communication between the Bureau and the White House on possible investigations.

Meanwhile, White House press secretary Sean Spicer blasted media coverage of the White House-FBI contacts, particularly CNN, saying, "What you guys have done is indefensible and inaccurate."

**Trump Signs Executive Order To Reduce Federal Regulation.** President Trump signed an executive order aimed at reducing Federal regulation with a group of corporate CEOs today. The order directs Federal agencies to establish regulatory reform task forces, to recommend regulations that should be eliminated or which can be simplified.

**Trump Highlights Human Trafficking Event.** President Trump today tweeted from his @realDonaldTrump handle today, "Trump vows to fight 'epidemic' of human trafficking." The tweet linked to an AP story on yesterday's event on Federal efforts to reduce human trafficking.

**State Department To Resume Briefings In March.** The State Department announced today that it will resume its regular press briefings the week of March 6. The last briefing was held on January 19, President Obama's final day in office.

**Beshear To Give Democratic Response To Trump Address.** Democrats have selected former Kentucky Gov. Steve Beshear to deliver the party's response to President Trump's Tuesday night speech to a joint session

of Congress. Immigration activist Astrid Silva will also give the Spanish language response to Trump's address.

**Soufan Group Warns Trump Preference For Small NSC Could Result In "Groupthink."** The main task for the incoming national security adviser, Lt. Gen. H.R. McMaster, will be "to restore confidence in one of the most important bodies in the US national security apparatus," argues a new report out from the Soufan Group. But although McMaster "will set the pace and tone of the National Security Council (NSC)," which he will lead, "the council's size and composition is often a reflection of the president's personality and management style," the report notes. Currently, the organization "is understaffed and dogged by controversy over potential politicization and Michael Flynn's resignation." Created in 1947, the NSC was designed to be the chief coordinating body for executive branch national security policy. The national security adviser chairs the NSC's Principals Committee, the organization's highest cabinet-level body. Aside from a small handful of cabinet members and advisers whose membership is mandated by law, the president has the authority to add or remove members at will, and to drastically increase or decrease the size of the NSC's staff. Under President George H.W. Bush, the NSC staff numbered around 50, and under the Obama Administration that number grew to some 400. "Keeping the NSC membership restricted to a small group of trusted advisers and staff – the model reportedly preferred by President Trump – has the advantage of efficiency," the report concludes. "However, a small number of officials restricts the diversity of opinions voiced in the policymaking process, potentially exposing debate to the risk of groupthink or domination by strong personalities, and leaving relevant but less conventional policy options unconsidered."

**ISIS Seeking Haven In Northwestern Afghanistan.** ISIS is expanding into northwestern Afghanistan, warns a new report out from the Institute for the Study of War. Former Taliban militants operating in the name of ISIS have executed international aid workers and held other International Red Cross workers captive in a prison in the region, which marks a notable step in the terror group's operations in the country, the report adds. "ISIS may increasingly use this hub to regenerate manpower as it suffers losses elsewhere, threatening US and NATO interests in multiple regions." What's more, "malign actors like Russia and Iran" could also use ISIS' expansion in Afghanistan "to validate their support of Taliban militants and undermine the US and NATO." The kidnappings come one month after local officials reported that ISIS destroyed homes and forced up to 60 families to leave local communities. "The establishment of a prison and population displacement are new developments for ISIS in northwestern Afghanistan, but typical of ISIS generally," the report notes. The move "is the first indicator of

social control by ISIS in Afghanistan outside of its strongholds” in the eastern part of the country. “The expansion of ISIS’ caliphate in Afghanistan would grant ISIS an additional logistical hub to receive and train foreign fighters as it becomes more difficult for foreign fighters to join ISIS in Iraq and Syria.”

### **CSIS Says Military Needs Officers With Both Operational, Tech Skills.**

A key theme in the 21st century has been the democratization of science and technology in national security – which means that top US military officers must get smarter about technology as well, warns a report out this morning from the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS). “High-technology weapons are no longer the exclusive domain of a few nations. Smaller states are expanding their arsenals and infusing advanced technologies into their war-fighting tactics, operations, and strategy.” As a result, it is vital to develop “a cadre of technologically competent officers with the requisite leadership and operational skills to excel in this fast-paced and ever-evolving environment,” the report argues. This will involve creating the next generation of leaders with both creative and critical thinking skills. “In short, what is needed is a system that allows a group of select officers to move between operational and S&T [science and technology] tracks throughout their careers,” the CSIS report adds. “The end goal is the creation of a cohort that has demonstrated excellence in both fields,” it concludes, adding that the report “strongly suggests that the entire [military] force be more sensitized to the S&T world, so that at a minimum, they will recognize the tactical, operational, and strategic applications of emerging sciences and technologies.”

### **Approval For Affordable Care Act Reaches 54% In Pew Survey.**

A Pew Research Center survey of 1,503 adults, conducted over February 7-12 shows:

- 54% approve of “the health care law passed by Barack Obama and Congress in 2010”; 43% disapprove; and 3% don’t know.
- 85% of Democrats approve of the law.
- 53% of independents approve of the law; 45% disapprove.
- 10% of Republicans approve of the law; 89% disapprove.

### **Kaiser Health Poll Shows 48% Think ACA Should Not Be Repealed.**

A Kaiser Health Tracking Poll of 1160 adults, conducted over February 13-19, shows:

- 48% have a favorable opinion of the Affordable Care Act; 42% have an unfavorable opinion.
- 48% say Congress should not repeal the ACA; 47% say Congress should repeal the law.

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## EPA Daily News Briefing

Bulletin  
INTELLIGENCE

**TO: ADMINISTRATOR AND SENIOR EXECUTIVES**

**DATE: TUESDAY, JANUARY 24, 2017 7:00 AM EST**

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### **Local TV Coverage: Refinery Fined In Washington State.**

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## **INTERNATIONAL**

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### **Additional Reading.**

- *Paris Rolls Out Color-code Stickers For Cars To Curb Pollution.* Reuters. (1/23, Libert)

## **OTHER NEWS**

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### **Lehr Says Time Has Come To End EPA.**

In a commentary for Breitbart (1/23), Jay H. Lehr, Ph.D., science director of The Heartland Institute, writes that during the "Republican National Convention last summer, the GOP approved a platform that stated: 'We propose to shift responsibility for environmental regulation from the federal bureaucracy to the states and to transform the EPA [Environmental Protection Agency] into an independent bipartisan commission, similar to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, with structural safeguards against politicized science.'" The platform also says "We will likewise forbid the EPA to regulate carbon dioxide, something never envisioned when Congress passed the Clean Air Act." Lehr added, "Trump and the GOP are saying, finally, what millions of people have been thinking for a long time: EPA has become the cause of, not the solution to, the nation's major environmental problems. It's time to end EPA."

### **Senate Committee Postpones Votes On Perry, Zinke.**

The Hill (1/23, Henry) reports Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee has postponed a vote, which was scheduled for Tuesday morning, on two of President Trump's cabinet nominees, former Texas governor Rick Perry to head the Energy Department and Rep. Ryan Zinke to be the next Interior Secretary. On Monday evening, the committee said that the hearing will be delayed "until further notice." Perry and Zinke "have not been considered especially controversial nominees." Reuters (1/23) reports "the panel gave no reason for the delay." NBC News (1/24) also provides coverage of the postponement on its website.

The Washington Examiner (1/23) reports both "nominees are less controversial than Trump's pick to lead the Environmental Protection Agency, Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt, who is being considered by the Environment and Public Works Committee." The three men "are the key Cabinet officials who would drive Trump's energy and environment agenda." A separate article by The Hill (1/23, Cama, Henry) reports that if the nominations are approved by the committee, "they'll move to the floor for a final confirmation vote."

***Watchdog Group Director Says Perry Avoided "Oops" Moment During Hearing.***

ClimateWire (1/23) reports Perry's performance during the hearing "has earned him praise for style and criticism on substance" and that he "avoided saying anything controversial in his bid to lead" DOE. Director of Texans for Public Justice Craig McDonald said, "I thought he didn't have any 'oops' moments at all." McDonald added, "I thought he was pretty cautious. ... I think his positions are more extreme than he characterized them [Thursday]. What it's going to be going forward, I don't know. What we do know about him is he's a good politician."

In an article about the new Senate cybersecurity panel, Bloomberg BNA (1/23, Stoller) reports many Cabinet nominees "have been tackling cybersecurity questions in their confirmation hearings." Perry "said at his hearing for Energy secretary Jan. 19 that he will take responsibility for the Energy Department's cybersecurity concerns."

***SAEN: Perry Did "Reasonably Well" At Confirmation Hearing.*** In an editorial the San Antonio Express-News (1/23) writes that during his confirmation hearing the former Texas governor "performed reasonably well." The piece goes on to say that it was important that Perry "disavowed a controversial questionnaire President Donald J. Trump's transition team had given to the Energy Department" and he highlighted that "the questionnaire preceded his selection to the post." He stated, "I didn't approve it. I don't approve of it. I don't need that information. I don't want that information. ... I have a history of working with people to deal with the challenges that face us." The Express News concludes, "It's the last point that could be Perry's greatest strength overseeing what he now understands is a vital and significant agency."

***Smitherman Resigns Partnership From Vinson & Elkins Law Firm.*** Fuel Fix (TX) (1/23) reports Barry Smitherman, former chairman of the Railroad Commission of Texas and the Public Utility Commission of Texas, has "resigned his partnership at Vinson & Elkins on Friday." Smitherman left the firm to "pursue other career opportunities and interests," the firm said in a statement. Last month, "Smitherman wrote an opinion piece in the Dallas Morning News about why former Texas Governor Rick Perry is a great pick to be the next U.S. secretary of energy." Smitherman "pointed to Perry's work in creating a competitive electricity market for consumers, spurred the development of wind power and supported the domestic oil and gas industry with extra resources, especially as fracking greatly enhanced production."

***Chapin Criticizes Trump For "Going After" Intellectual "Elites."*** In a piece highly critical of Trump for "going after" on intellectual "elites" and his Cabinet choices, Laura Chapin, a Democratic communications strategist, writes for U.S. News & World Report (1/23, Chapin) that "in his elevation of ignorance and dismissal of 'elites,' Trump is nominating cronies, contributors and fools to some of the most important jobs in Washington." Among the Energy Department's "priorities" are "ensuring the integrity and safety of the country's nuclear weapons." President Obama's most recent energy secretary, Ernest Moniz, "is a nuclear physicist." Stephen Chu, who came before Moniz, "won the Nobel Prize." Perry, Trump's nominee for the post, received "a D in meat science at Texas A&M and blanked on the name of the agency itself at a Republican debate." Chapin contends "these people have no idea what they're doing or have the slightest competence at running a federal agency" but they are "loyal" to Trump and "that's all that matters."

**Additional Reading.**

- ***Obama's EPA Chief Keeps Twitter Handle.*** Washington Examiner. (1/24, Emery)
- ***SOURCE: Career EPA Staffers Will Undermine Trump, Leak To The Press.*** Daily Caller. (1/23, Bastasch)

**PESTICIDES**

## **Additional Reading.**

- *DDT In Spotlight As Trump Team Takes EPA Helm.* [Greenwire](#) (1/23)

## **RULES/REGULATIONS/POLICY**

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### **Energy Institute's Guith Quoted On Potential Rollback Of Methane Regulations.**

The [Washington Examiner](#) (1/23) reports that Congress "needs to move quickly" if it intends to use the Congressional Review Act to halt new methane emission and coal mining rules "before the 60-day deadline for doing so is up." The article says that Republicans already missed an opportunity "to strike down one layer of methane rules" that were issued by the Environmental Protection Agency regarding leaks from oil wells and pipelines because they "only just realized that the 60-day window had passed." However, Institute for 21st Century Energy vice president Christopher Guith explained that it is "not too late" to dismiss the Bureau of Land Management's "methane venting and flaring rule, which will likely get CRA'd."

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- **Paris Rolls Out Color-code Stickers For Cars To Curb Pollution.** Reuters. (1/23, Libert)

## **OTHER NEWS:**

**Lehr Says Time Has Come To End EPA.** In a commentary for Breitbart (1/23), Jay H. Lehr, Ph.D., science director of The Heartland Institute, writes that during the "Republican National Convention last summer, the GOP approved a platform that stated: 'We propose to shift responsibility for environmental regulation from the federal bureaucracy to the states and to transform the EPA [Environmental Protection Agency] into an independent bipartisan commission, similar to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, with structural safeguards against politicized science.'" The platform also says "We will likewise forbid the EPA to regulate carbon dioxide, something never envisioned when Congress passed the Clean Air Act." Lehr added, "Trump and the GOP are saying, finally, what millions of people have been thinking for a long time: EPA has become the cause of, not the solution to, the nation's major environmental problems. It's time to end EPA."

**Senate Committee Postpones Votes On Perry, Zinke.** The Hill (1/23, Henry) reports Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee has postponed a vote, which

was scheduled for Tuesday morning, on two of President Trump's cabinet nominees, former Texas governor Rick Perry to head the Energy Department and Rep. Ryan Zinke to be the next Interior Secretary. On Monday evening, the committee said that the hearing will be delayed "until further notice." Perry and Zinke "have not been considered especially controversial nominees." Reuters (1/23) reports "the panel gave no reason for the delay." NBC News (1/24) also provides coverage of the postponement on its website.

The Washington Examiner (1/23) reports both "nominees are less controversial than Trump's pick to lead the Environmental Protection Agency, Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt, who is being considered by the Environment and Public Works Committee." The three men "are the key Cabinet officials who would drive Trump's energy and environment agenda." A separate article by The Hill (1/23, Cama, Henry) reports that if the nominations are approved by the committee, "they'll move to the floor for a final confirmation vote."

**Watchdog Group Director Says Perry Avoided "Oops" Moment During Hearing.** ClimateWire (1/23) reports Perry's performance during the hearing "has earned him praise for style and criticism on substance" and that he "avoided saying anything controversial in his bid to lead" DOE. Director of Texans for Public Justice Craig McDonald said, "I thought he didn't have any 'oops' moments at all." McDonald added, "I thought he was pretty cautious. ... I think his positions are more extreme than he characterized them [Thursday]. What it's going to be going forward, I don't know. What we do know about him is he's a good politician."

In an article about the new Senate cybersecurity panel, Bloomberg BNA (1/23, Stoller) reports many Cabinet nominees "have been tackling cybersecurity questions in their confirmation hearings." Perry "said at his hearing for Energy secretary Jan. 19 that he will take responsibility for the Energy Department's cybersecurity concerns."

**SAEN: Perry Did "Reasonably Well" At Confirmation Hearing.** In an editorial the San Antonio Express-News (1/23) writes that during his confirmation hearing the former Texas governor "performed reasonably well." The piece goes on to say that it was important that Perry "disavowed a controversial questionnaire President Donald J. Trump's transition team had given to the Energy Department" and he highlighted that "the questionnaire preceded his selection to the post." He stated, "I didn't approve it. I don't approve of it. I don't need that information. I don't want that information. ... I have a history of working with people to deal with the challenges that face us." The Express News concludes, "It's the last point that could be Perry's greatest strength overseeing what he now understands is a vital and significant agency."

**Smitherman Resigns Partnership From Vinson & Elkins Law Firm.** Fuel Fix (TX) (1/23) reports Barry Smitherman, former chairman of the Railroad Commission of

Texas and the Public Utility Commission of Texas, has "resigned his partnership at Vinson & Elkins on Friday." Smitherman left the firm to "pursue other career opportunities and interests," the firm said in a statement. Last month, "Smitherman wrote an opinion piece in the Dallas Morning News about why former Texas Governor Rick Perry is a great pick to be the next U.S. secretary of energy." Smitherman "pointed to Perry's work in creating a competitive electricity market for consumers, spurred the development of wind power and supported the domestic oil and gas industry with extra resources, especially as fracking greatly enhanced production."

**Chapin Criticizes Trump For "Going After" Intellectual "Elites."** In a piece highly critical of Trump for "going after" on intellectual "elites" and his Cabinet choices, Laura Chapin, a Democratic communications strategist, writes for U.S. News & World Report (1/23, Chapin) that "in his elevation of ignorance and dismissal of 'elites,' Trump is nominating cronies, contributors and fools to some of the most important jobs in Washington." Among the Energy Department's "priorities" are "ensuring the integrity and safety of the country's nuclear weapons." President Obama's most recent energy secretary, Ernest Moniz, "is a nuclear physicist." Stephen Chu, who came before Moniz, "won the Nobel Prize." Perry, Trump's nominee for the post, received "a D in meat science at Texas A&M and blanked on the name of the agency itself at a Republican debate." Chapin contends "these people have no idea what they're doing or have the slightest competence at running a federal agency" but they are "loyal" to Trump and "that's all that matters."

### Additional Reading.

- **Obama's EPA Chief Keeps Twitter Handle.** Washington Examiner. (1/24, Emery)
- **SOURCE: Career EPA Staffers Will Undermine Trump, Leak To The Press.** Daily Caller. (1/23, Bastasch)

## PESTICIDES:

### Additional Reading.

- **DDT In Spotlight As Trump Team Takes EPA Helm.** Greenwire (1/23)

## RULES/REGULATIONS/POLICY:

**Energy Institute's Guith Quoted On Potential Rollback Of Methane Regulations.** The Washington Examiner (1/23) reports that Congress "needs to move quickly" if it intends to use the Congressional Review Act to halt new methane emission and coal mining rules "before the 60-day deadline for doing so is up." The article says that Republicans already missed an opportunity "to

strike down one layer of methane rules” that were issued by the Environmental Protection Agency regarding leaks from oil wells and pipelines because they “only just realized that the 60-day window had passed.” However, Institute for 21st Century Energy vice president Christopher Guith explained that it is “not too late” to dismiss the Bureau of Land Management’s “methane venting and flaring rule, which will likely get CRA’d.”

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## EPA Daily News Briefing

Bulletin  
INTELLIGENCE

**TO: ADMINISTRATOR AND SENIOR EXECUTIVES**

**DATE: TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2017 7:00 AM EST**

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## **BROWNFIELDS/SUPERFUND/OTHER CLEANUPS**

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### **Superfund Expert Opposes EPA’s Cleanup Plan For San Jacinto Waste Pits.**

In an op-ed in the Houston Chronicle, (2/6, Chrostowski) Paul Chrostowski, Ph.D., principal of a Washington D.C.-based firm that provides technical consulting on federal environmental programs, criticizes the EPA’s proposed cleanup of the San Jacinto waste pits Superfund site. He concludes that the highly complex plan has a “proportionate risk of failure” and should be re-evaluated.

### **Additional Reading.**

- *Arsenic, Lead Levels Could Crush Property Values In N.J. Town, Suit Says.* NJ News. (2/6, McCarthy)

## **CLIMATE CHANGE**

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## **Leading Science Advisor Candidates Question Climate Change Research.**

Science Magazine (2/6) reports two of the leading candidates to advise President Trump on science "laid out their policy priorities and questioned the credibility of human-induced climate change in interviews with The Scientist." Princeton University physicist William Happer called the growth of climate change research a "cult movement," question government certainty on the matter. Yale University computer scientist David Gelernter in a separate interview, said scientists "haven't fully grasped what a gigantic proposition it is for measly human activity ... to change something like the climate of a planet" If appointed, Gelernter said he would prioritize computers and networking, physics, and neuroscience.

## **Study Applies Science To Tracking Progress Toward Climate Accord Targets.**

The Los Angeles Times (2/6, Khan) reports a study last week in *Nature Climate Change* "has developed a measurement tool that can be used to assess each nation's performance" in meeting Paris climate agreement targets. "Countries report and even collect data in different forms; it's not always easy to compare what different countries are doing," said study coauthor Robert Jackson at Stanford University. The new analysis consolidates information by using Kaya Identity "an equation used by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change to make climate change projections based on greenhouse gas scenarios."

## **NOAA To Review Claim Of Climate Data Manipulation.**

The Washington Times (2/6, Richardson) reports that the NOAA said Monday that it would review "allegations that the agency manipulated climate data in order to eliminate the global warming 'pause' for political reasons." Retired NOAA scientist John Bates on Sunday "claimed that a top NOAA climate scientist [Thomas Karl] selectively used data to discredit the global warming hiatus in a key 2015 study."

*Smith Says NOAA Climate Data Allegations Vindicates Probe Into Study.* The Hill (2/6, Henry) reports House Science Committee Chairman Lamar Smith is "hailing" allegations by ex-NOAA scientist John Bates that the agency manipulated climate data "as vindication of his probe into a major federal climate study." Smith said in a statement, "Bates' revelations and NOAA's obstruction certainly lend credence to what I've expected all along – that the Karl study used flawed data, was rushed to publication in an effort to support the president's climate change agenda, and ignored NOAA's own standards for scientific study." Study co-author Thomas Peterson "said the study wasn't rushed out for publication, and that he and others within NOAA had actually been pushing to release new climate information more quickly." ClimateWire (2/6) also reports.

## **ENERGY**

### **Interview With NARUC's Powelson On States-centered Energy Policy.**

In a 3,500-word piece, the Washington Examiner (2/6) interviews National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners president Robert Powelson. He discusses states' policy priorities in tandem with "cooperative federalism" on "nuclear waste storage, new nuclear development, carbon capture storage, renewable integration" and cyber security. Powelson said states need FERC to be fully staffed and that state regulators have been "deeply troubled" by the EPA's "lack of understanding" about each state would meet federal targets and how they were set. Powelson laments PHMSA's lack of training facilities and "total neglect on the part of PHMSA administrators to engage with NARUC." Powelson credits EPA with greater engagement than PHMSA. Powelson



says that he and the Edison Electric Institute support a reform of the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978, which he calls “an outdated doctrine” that “needs to be reformed to reflect the modern energy landscape.” Separately, the Washington Examiner (2/6, Kasperowicz) summarizes Powelson’s remarks.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE**

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### **EPA Finds Bias In Flint Power Plant Case.**

The Detroit News (2/7) found that the state of Michigan discriminated against African-Americans in Flint, Michigan 24 years ago when determining the location for the Genessee Power Station. The actions by the Michigan Air Pollution Control Commission and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality included “posting armed guards at the only hearing held in a predominantly black neighborhood in north Flint.” The article points out that the EPA did not comment on why the complaint took 24 years to complete, instead of the standard 180 days. The ruling was issued on the final day of the Obama Administration.

## **OTHER NEWS**

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### **EPA Staff Concerned About Impacts Of Trump’s Hiring Freeze.**

Bloomberg BNA (2/7, Lee, Dabbs) reports that “EPA workers are bracing for the possibility of a ‘substantial impact’ if the Trump administration’s governmentwide hiring freeze persists” beyond 90 days. Doug Ericksen, head of communications for the Trump administration’s EPA landing team, noted that the hiring freeze is agencywide and not specifically targeted at the EPA. He also said that the EPA workforce is up by “a couple hundred” in the past year. However, EPA data shows that EPA staffing in 2015 and 2016 “is down nearly 1,800 from the average level over that period.”

### **Ebell Provided Trump Team With Outline To Drastically Reform EPA.**

E&E Publishing (2/6, Bravender) reports that as the former lead of Trump’s EPA transition team, Myron Ebell developed a blueprint for EPA’s future. Although he is no longer working for the administration, he has publicly stated his goals “to drastically pare back the agency, including slashing its current staff by two-thirds, downsizing its budget and tasking states with doing much of the work the federal environmental agency is now charged with.” The Trump team has “sought to distance itself from some of Ebell’s statements,” with senior advisor Don Benton stating that “he couldn’t validate statements coming from individuals who no longer serve on the EPA transition team.”

*Top Advisor Says Trump Can Be Expected To Follow Through On Energy-Related Campaign Promises.* Bloomberg BNA (2/7, Leven) reports that Ebell said he expects President Trump will follow through on “most of the more than three dozen campaign promises he made related to energy and environment policy,” including pledges to withdraw from the Paris climate deal and some of the Obama administration’s landmark climate regulations. Ebell pointed out that Trump has already followed through on one pledge by signing an executive order to advance the Keystone XL pipeline.

### **House Committee Looks To Revive “Secret Science Reform Act” Targeting EPA.**

E&E Daily (2/6) reports that a House Science, Space and Technology Committee will host a hearing titled, “Making EPA Great Again” as it considers reviving a measure that would require EPA regulations to be based on “transparent or reproducible” science. Known as the “Secret Science

Reform Act," the bill has been viewed by detractors as a "Trojan horse aimed at undercutting EPA's ability to issue needed regulations, both by opening the door to more legal challenges and because large-scale scientific studies may be difficult to reproduce." The Obama administration threatened to veto a similar measure two years ago, saying it would "undermine" EPA's ability to protect public health and could "potentially expose the government to 'substantial litigation costs.'"

## **WATER**

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### **New York Schools Water Lead Level.**

**NY1-TV** 📺 New York (2/6, 5:06 p.m. EST) reported, "NY1 has learned that there are elevated levels of lead in the water in at least 750 school buildings. ...the city is retesting all 1,500 school buildings after the New York Times reported that pipes in schools were routinely flushed for two hours before testing, a practice that can mask high levels of lead and is now banned by the state. The City Education Department won't say exactly how many of those school buildings have been retested, but NY1 has learned that an overwhelming majority of those that have been inspected again came back with unsafe lead levels in water from at least one faucet. 6,337 fixtures in schools have been turned off after registering elevated lead levels, more than 8% of those tested. ...The Environmental Protection Agency says any testing result higher than 15 part per billion must be addressed. ...Education officials say there has never been a known case of lead poisoning traced to the water in city schools."

### **EPA Warns East Chicago Residents To Assume High Lead Levels.**

The **AP** (2/6) reports that new guidance from federal officials is warning East Chicago residents they should "assume they have lead water lines and use a properly certified filter." The EPA tested water at more than 40 homes near the USS Lead Superfund site in the city's Calumet neighborhood and found nearly half of the homes had elevated lead levels. The EPA said it "views the sampling to represent the entire water system," therefore "it's possible up to 90 percent of homes in East Chicago have lead water lines."

**Local TV Coverage.** **WMAQ-TV** 📺 Chicago (2/6, 11:07 p.m. EST) reported, "Now to a dire warning for residents in East Chicago, Indiana. The EPA says everyone should assume that they have unsafe levels of lead in their drinking water. And they should use a certified filter. Testing that found high lead levels was part of a cleanup of contaminated soil in the Calumet neighborhood."

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The Orange County (CA) Register (2/3) reported that Friday’s meeting drew a crowd of around 500 and included “more than four hours of sometimes contentious testimony,” largely from opponents of the plan, many of whom argued that “it needed to have tougher rule-making to more quickly reduce emissions and should not rely on tax dollars to pay industry incentives.” Among those was Kuehl, who said, “It still falls short in a number of ways. There doesn’t seem to be, as my dentist would call them, teeth.” She “introduced a motion that, among other provisions, would have required staff to draft regulations that would kick in should volunteer reductions not come to fruition.”

## **BROWNFIELDS/SUPERFUND/OTHER CLEANUPS:**

**Superfund Expert Opposes EPA’s Cleanup Plan For San Jacinto Waste Pits.** In an op-ed in the Houston Chronicle, (2/6, Chrostowski) Paul Chrostowski, Ph.D., principal of a Washington D.C.-based firm that provides technical consulting on federal environmental programs, criticizes the EPA’s proposed cleanup of the San Jacinto waste pits Superfund site. He concludes that the highly complex plan has a “proportionate risk of failure” and should be re-evaluated.

### **Additional Reading.**

- *Arsenic, Lead Levels Could Crush Property Values In N.J. Town, Suit Says.* NJ News. (2/6, McCarthy)

## **CLIMATE CHANGE:**

**Leading Science Advisor Candidates Question Climate Change Research.** Science Magazine (2/6) reports two of the leading candidates to advise President Trump on science “laid out their policy priorities and questioned the credibility of human-induced climate change in interviews with The Scientist.” Princeton University physicist

William Happer called the growth of climate change research a “cult movement,” question government certainty on the matter. Yale University computer scientist David Gelernter in a separate interview, said scientists “haven’t fully grasped what a gigantic proposition it is for measly human activity ... to change something like the climate of a planet” If appointed, Gelernter said he would prioritize computers and networking, physics, and neuroscience.

**Study Applies Science To Tracking Progress Toward Climate Accord Targets.** The Los Angeles Times (2/6, Khan) reports a study last week in *Nature Climate Change* “has developed a measurement tool that can be used to assess each nation’s performance” in meeting Paris climate agreement targets. “Countries report and even collect data in different forms; it’s not always easy to compare what different countries are doing,” said study coauthor Robert Jackson at Stanford University. The new analysis consolidates information by using Kaya Identity “an equation used by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change to make climate change projections based on greenhouse gas scenarios.”

**NOAA To Review Claim Of Climate Data Manipulation.** The Washington Times (2/6, Richardson) reports that the NOAA said Monday that it would review “allegations that the agency manipulated climate data in order to eliminate the global warming ‘pause’ for political reasons.” Retired NOAA scientist John Bates on Sunday “claimed that a top NOAA climate scientist [Thomas Karl] selectively used data to discredit the global warming hiatus in a key 2015 study.”

**Smith Says NOAA Climate Data Allegations Vindicates Probe Into Study.** The Hill (2/6, Henry) reports House Science Committee Chairman Lamar Smith is “hailing” allegations by ex-NOAA scientist John Bates that the agency manipulated climate data “as vindication of his probe into a major federal climate study.” Smith said in a statement, “Bates’ revelations and NOAA’s obstruction certainly lend credence to what I’ve expected all along – that the Karl study used flawed data, was rushed to publication in an effort to support the president’s climate change agenda, and ignored NOAA’s own standards for scientific study.” Study co-author Thomas Peterson “said the study wasn’t rushed out for publication, and that he and others within NOAA had actually been pushing to release new climate information more quickly.” ClimateWire (2/6) also reports.

## **ENERGY:**

**Interview With NARUC’s Powelson On States-centered Energy Policy.** In a 3,500-word piece, the Washington Examiner (2/6) interviews National Association of

Regulatory Utility Commissioners president Robert Powelson. He discusses states’ policy priorities in tandem with “cooperative federalism” on “nuclear waste storage, new nuclear development, carbon capture storage, renewable integration” and cyber security. Powelson said states need FERC to be fully staffed and that state regulators have been “deeply troubled” by the EPA’s “lack of understanding” about each state would meet federal targets and how they were set. Powelson laments PHMSA’s lack of training facilities and “total neglect on the part of PHMSA administrators to engage with NARUC.” Powelson credits EPA with greater engagement than PHMSA. Powelson says that he and the Edison Electric Institute support a reform of the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978, which he calls “an outdated doctrine” that “needs to be reformed to reflect the modern energy landscape.” Separately, the Washington Examiner (2/6, Kasperowicz) summarizes Powelson’s remarks.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE:**

**EPA Finds Bias In Flint Power Plant Case.** The Detroit News (2/7) found that the state of Michigan discriminated against African-Americans in Flint, Michigan 24 years ago when determining the location for the Genessee Power Station. The actions by the Michigan Air Pollution Control Commission and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality included “posting armed guards at the only hearing held in a predominantly black neighborhood in north Flint.” The article points out that the EPA did not comment on why the complaint took 24 years to complete, instead of the standard 180 days. The ruling was issued on the final day of the Obama Administration.

## **OTHER NEWS:**

**EPA Staff Concerned About Impacts Of Trump’s Hiring Freeze.** Bloomberg BNA (2/7, Lee, Dabbs) reports that “EPA workers are bracing for the possibility of a ‘substantial impact’ if the Trump administration’s governmentwide hiring freeze persists” beyond 90 days. Doug Ericksen, head of communications for the Trump administration’s EPA landing team, noted that the hiring freeze is agencywide and not specifically targeted at the EPA. He also said that the EPA workforce is up by “a couple hundred” in the past year. However, EPA data shows that EPA staffing in 2015 and 2016 “is down nearly 1,800 from the average level over that period.”

**Ebell Provided Trump Team With Outline To Drastically Reform EPA.** E&E Publishing (2/6, Bravender) reports that as the former lead of Trump’s EPA transition team, Myron Ebell developed a blueprint for EPA’s future. Although he is no longer working for the

administration, he has publicly stated his goals “to drastically pare back the agency, including slashing its current staff by two-thirds, downsizing its budget and tasking states with doing much of the work the federal environmental agency is now charged with.” The Trump team has “sought to distance itself from some of Ebell’s statements,” with senior advisor Don Benton stating that “he couldn’t validate statements coming from individuals who no longer serve on the EPA transition team.”

**Top Advisor Says Trump Can Be Expected To Follow Through On Energy-Related Campaign Promises.** Bloomberg BNA (2/7, Leven) reports that Ebell said he expects President Trump will follow through on “most of the more than three dozen campaign promises he made related to energy and environment policy,” including pledges to withdraw from the Paris climate deal and some of the Obama administration’s landmark climate regulations. Ebell pointed out that Trump has already followed through on one pledge by signing an executive order to advance the Keystone XL pipeline.

**House Committee Looks To Revive “Secret Science Reform Act” Targeting EPA.** E&E Daily (2/6) reports that a House Science, Space and Technology Committee will host a hearing titled, “Making EPA Great Again” as it considers reviving a measure that would require EPA regulations to be based on “transparent or reproducible” science. Known as the “Secret Science Reform Act,” the bill has been viewed by detractors as a “Trojan horse aimed at undercutting EPA’s ability to issue needed regulations, both by opening the door to more legal challenges and because large-scale scientific studies may be difficult to reproduce.” The Obama administration threatened to veto a similar measure two years ago, saying it would “undermine” EPA’s ability to protect public health and could “potentially expose the government to ‘substantial litigation costs.’”

## **WATER:**

**New York Schools Water Lead Level.** NY1-TV New York (2/6, 5:06 p.m. EST) reported, “NY1 has learned that there are elevated levels of lead in the water in at least 750 school buildings. ...the city is retesting all 1,500 school buildings after the New York Times reported that pipes in schools were routinely flushed for two hours before testing, a practice that can mask high levels of lead and is now banned by the state. The City Education Department won’t say exactly how many of those school buildings have been retested, but NY1 has learned that an overwhelming majority of those that have been inspected again came back with unsafe lead levels in water from at least one faucet. 6,337 fixtures in schools have been turned off after registering elevated lead levels, more than 8% of those tested. ...The

Environmental Protection Agency says any testing result higher than 15 part per billion must be addressed. ...Education officials say there has never been a known case of lead poisoning traced to the water in city schools.”

**EPA Warns East Chicago Residents To Assume High Lead Levels.** The AP (2/6) reports that new guidance from federal officials is warning East Chicago residents they should “assume they have lead water lines and use a properly certified filter.” The EPA tested water at more than 40 homes near the USS Lead Superfund site in the city’s Calumet neighborhood and found nearly half of the homes had elevated lead levels. The EPA said it “views the sampling to represent the entire water system,” therefore “it’s possible up to 90 percent of homes in East Chicago have lead water lines.”

**Local TV Coverage.** WMAQ-TV Chicago (2/6, 11:07 p.m. EST) reported, “Now to a dire warning for residents in East Chicago, Indiana. The EPA says everyone should assume that they have unsafe levels of lead in their drinking water. And they should use a certified filter. Testing that found high lead levels was part of a cleanup of contaminated soil in the Calumet neighborhood.”

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Message

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**From:** Akins, Nick [nakins@brt.org]  
**Sent:** 4/18/2017 3:05:47 PM  
**Subject:** Business Roundtable: 2017 Sustainability Report - "Create, Grow, Sustain: Delivering Shared Success"  
**Attachments:** BRT 2017 Sustainability Report.2017.04.18.pdf

**To:** Interested Parties

**From:** Nick Akins  
Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer  
American Electric Power  
Chair, Energy and Environment Committee  
Business Roundtable

**Date:** April 18, 2017

**Re:** Business Roundtable's Report: "Create, Grow, Sustain: Delivering Shared Success"

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Earlier this week, Business Roundtable released, "Create, Grow, Sustain: Delivering Shared Success," which features the sustainability achievements of 155 of our member companies. We are proud of these efforts, which have helped drive sustainable business investment, economic growth and job creation – while improving the quality of life in communities where all of us work and live.

Celebrating its 10th year, this signature Business Roundtable report clearly demonstrates the commitment of America's top CEOs to developing innovative solutions to the toughest environmental, energy and growth challenges. We are honored to share it with you.

We encourage you to visit <http://businessroundtable.org/sustainability> to read the full report and watch videos that illustrate how Business Roundtable member companies are solving some of the world's most challenging problems and sharing that success with the communities where our employees and customers live and work.

If you have questions or comments about this report, please contact me directly or Matt Sonnesyn with Business Roundtable at [msonnesyn@brt.org](mailto:msonnesyn@brt.org).

Thank you.

Business Roundtable  
300 New Jersey Avenue, NW | Suite 800 | Washington, DC 20001  
[www.brt.org](http://www.brt.org)

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Business  
Roundtable™

More Than Leaders. Leadership.

CREATE • GROW • SUSTAIN

# Delivering Shared Success

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10TH ANNIVERSARY REPORT

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**More Than Leaders. Leadership.**

Business Roundtable CEO members lead companies with nearly 15 million employees and more than \$6 trillion in annual revenues. The combined market capitalization of Business Roundtable member companies is the equivalent of nearly one-quarter of total U.S. stock market capitalization, and Business Roundtable members invest \$103 billion annually in research and development — equal to 30 percent of U.S. private R&D spending. Our companies pay \$226 billion in dividends to shareholders and generate \$412 billion in revenues for small and medium-sized businesses annually. Business Roundtable companies also make more than \$7 billion a year in charitable contributions. Learn more at [BRT.org](http://BRT.org).

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CREATE • GROW • SUSTAIN

# Delivering Shared Success





April 2017

DEAR BUSINESS LEADERS AND STAKEHOLDERS:

On behalf of the CEO members of Business Roundtable, I am proud to share with you our 2017 sustainability report — *Create, Grow, Sustain: Delivering Shared Success*. Celebrating its 10th anniversary, the report features narratives from 155 CEOs on how their companies have developed and promoted sustainable practices in their operations in the United States and around the world.

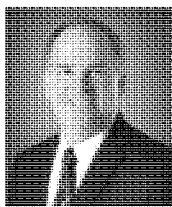
For the past decade, Business Roundtable has used this report to highlight the critical importance of sustainability at our companies and in the communities where we operate. At American Electric Power (AEP), sustainability is fundamental to building and strengthening sustained business value. As one of the nation's largest electric utilities, AEP is building a modern grid to enable all resources and technologies, giving customers the power to control their energy usage and cost as we transition to a low-carbon energy future. As a result, between 2000 and 2017, we expect to reduce emissions by more than 90 percent and decrease our carbon footprint by 56 percent.

Thanks to the commitment to sustainability made by Business Roundtable member companies, achievements like ours are the norm. Energy use per dollar of U.S. economic output has decreased an average of nearly 2 percent per year since 1992 — and CEOs are proud of the role companies have played in this success story. The increase in energy efficiency reduces costs for households and businesses, which benefits the economy and the environment.

Behind each sustainability accomplishment lies a powerful story. These stories involve people working together to advance our efforts ever further and share in the resulting success. From creating textiles out of recycled bottles to charting the migration cycle of birds to recycling metal from the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge, our companies are at the forefront of solving today's sustainability challenges by pairing a strong commitment with innovative ideas and technologies.

I hope you enjoy the 10th issue of this report and learn more about how business leaders are tackling our greatest sustainability challenges.

Sincerely,



A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Nicholas K. Akins".

**Nicholas K. Akins**

Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer,  
American Electric Power  
Chair, Energy and Environment Committee,  
Business Roundtable

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As a company serving a multitude of industries in nearly every country on the planet, we recognize the opportunity we have to grow our business while solving some of the world's biggest problems.

This requires, first and foremost, collaboration — with our customers, partners and stakeholders. It means understanding the everyday sustainability challenges faced by our customers, the important commitments companies and governments have made, and how all of this affects the bigger picture — the large, long-term societal issues that must be faced to empower generations to come.

We look forward to forging new approaches that serve both business and society.

At the same time, we recognize the progress we have made throughout 2016, which demonstrates the value of keeping sustainability in our sights at all times and in all of the places 3M operates:

- ⊗ We continued using science to develop products that address challenges facing our customers and our global community, including enhancing human health, promoting access to clean water, increasing energy efficiency and enabling safe work environments.
- ⊗ We released a new parental leave policy that extends the amount of leave while including both biological and adoptive parents, which is designed to help all parents play active roles in their families.
- ⊗ We partnered with the Smithsonian to open the new National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, D.C., by providing financial and product support.
- ⊗ A survey by the National Institute of High School Scholars ranked 3M as the top place to work for millennials.
- ⊗ We convened customer conversations focused on sustainability and embedded sustainability into our business strategies across the company and the globe.

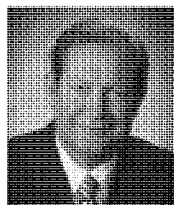
We also began our journey toward our 2025 sustainability goals, which include investing in sustainable materials, energy efficiency and water management; helping our customers reduce their greenhouse gas emissions through the use of our products; promoting worker and patient safety in health care and industrial settings; and strengthening our workforce by doubling 3M's pipeline of diverse leaders.

In collaboration with our customers, partners and stakeholders, we will reach these goals and continue doing what 3M does best: use science to make the world a safer, healthier and better place. That is *3M Science. Applied to Life.*™



[www.3M.com/Sustainability](http://www.3M.com/Sustainability)

"Today, some of our most important goals serve the needs of everyone on this planet."



A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading 'Inge G. Thulin'.

**Inge G. Thulin**  
Chairman of the Board,  
President and Chief Executive Officer



<https://www.aosmith.com>

"A. O. Smith remains focused on innovation not only with its products but also with its processes."

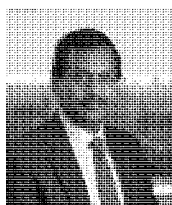
A. O. Smith remains focused on innovation not only with its products but also with its processes. Our employees are always finding the best and most efficient ways to improve our products for the next generation of consumers. We have a wide selection of ENERGY STAR®-rated water heaters and high-efficiency products that are environmentally friendly.

Many of A. O. Smith's facilities worldwide also work on reducing energy consumption and water waste and take pride and ownership in helping the environment:

- ⊗ **Ashland City, TN** — The plant implemented an enhanced parts washing process that reduced water usage 36 percent for annual savings of more than 21 million gallons of water.
- ⊗ **Bangalore, India** — In 2016, the team identified numerous opportunities to reduce propane and electricity consumption in the plant, reducing its carbon footprint. The team worked on optimizing the air conditioning and compressors in the plant, which helped reduce propane consumption by more than 9 percent. It also improved the street lighting around the plant and installed sensors to turn lights on and off in both the offices and the plant, which reduced electricity consumption by more than 13 percent.
- ⊗ **Johnson City, TN** — In 2011 the plant earned Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver certification, a noteworthy accomplishment for an existing facility. Johnson City is also an ENERGY STAR®-certified plant.
- ⊗ **Nanjing, China** — The facility modified its pretreatment processes to find an alternative to phosphorus pretreating, which not only reduced chemical discharges but also improved the corrosion resistance of our water heater tanks.
- ⊗ **Renton, WA** — The team received a Gold Award for perfect compliance with waste regulations set by King County's Industrial Waste Program in 2014 and 2015. The team also worked to improve its environmental safety standards. In 2012, the team upgraded one of its furnaces by adding insulation, which significantly improved gas, electricity and power conservation, largely reducing utility costs. Additionally, the team added new equipment and a new test station to ensure water waste is thoroughly monitored.

Since 2010, A. O. Smith has been awarding the Chairman's Green Star Award to the plant that achieves the greatest year-over-year reductions in natural gas and water consumption and electricity usage. Each plant worldwide is measured on its improvement over the prior year; one plant receives the award annually.

A. O. Smith will continue to look at ways to improve our efforts to reduce our carbon footprint globally.



**Ajita G. Rajendra**  
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer

As we near our 130th anniversary, sustainability is clearly something that Abbott has long understood and practiced. It's central to our worldview. The essence of our business is sustaining human health and life. That's the ultimate shared success — when we create a better health care technology, it helps countless people around the world live better, fuller lives.



[www.abbott.com/citizenship](http://www.abbott.com/citizenship)

And this is a particularly fertile and productive time for that kind of breakthrough invention here at Abbott. In 2016 we were recognized by *Popular Science*, the world's largest science and technology magazine, for developing two of its top 100 inventions of the year — our FreeStyle Libre glucose monitoring system for people with diabetes and our Absorb bioresorbable stent to repair arteries without leaving foreign material in the body. Our commitment to advancing medical science was underscored earlier this year when Clarivate Analytics named Abbott one of the world's Top 100 Innovators.

Creating new and better health products will always be the primary way we contribute to the world's well-being — but it's first among many. Our long-established citizenship and sustainability commitment falls into three major categories:

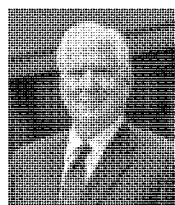
**Responsible Business Practices:** We strive to operate our company ethically, carefully, and so as to create positive effects and legacies. Nowhere is this more evident than in our environmental commitment. Since 2010, Abbott has reduced absolute energy consumption by 9 percent and absolute greenhouse gas emissions by 15 percent. Our water policy has led to significant reduction in water use. Just one example is our Columbus, OH, plant, which reduced water usage by 13 percent year over year, a decrease of 46 million gallons. And more than 20 of our manufacturing sites have now been certified as zero waste to landfill.

**Shared Value:** We believe the best results are achieved by working in partnership to produce mutual benefits. In India, for example, we are working with local dairy farmers to enhance their ability to produce the high-quality, safe milk we need for our nutrition business. As a result, local output has increased, and the quality of the milk produced has risen, leading to higher income for the farmers and a stronger supply chain for Abbott.

**Philanthropy:** And of course, we remain committed to focused, strategic giving that produces meaningful results. We've now worked with the government of Tanzania for more than 15 years to improve the country's health care system. Our partnership to build infrastructure and improve methods has resulted in the country's first emergency department, treating more than 47,000 people per year; a network of 23 modern diagnostic labs across the country; and more than 1,000 people cared for daily at the modern outpatient center built at the nation's leading hospital.

**Commitment:** Because of policies and practices like these, Abbott was again named to the Dow Jones Sustainability Indices in 2016 — the 12th consecutive year we've earned this recognition and the fourth year in a row that we've been named the leading company in our industry.

Our goal at Abbott is to help people live the best lives they can. We strive to serve that mission through everything we do as a company. And our success in this vital work is shared by all the people we serve around the world.



**Miles D. White**

Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer

"As we near our 130th anniversary, sustainability is clearly something that Abbott has long understood and practiced. It's central to our worldview. The essence of our business is sustaining human health and life. That's the ultimate shared success — when we create a better health care technology, it helps countless people around the world live better, fuller lives."



www.accenture.com

"We have a rich tradition in corporate citizenship that is central to our culture and reflects our core values. Our people across the United States bring the same commitment and rigor to our corporate citizenship initiatives as they do to client service, using digital technologies to create new opportunities."

## 10 Years of Shared Success

For the past 10 years, Accenture has taken bold action to reduce our environmental impact, and our commitment continues to evolve and grow. We have reduced our per-employee carbon emissions by more than 47 percent against our fiscal 2007 baseline — from an average of 4.04 to 2.13 metric tons of carbon dioxide per employee.

Leveraging technology to manage our energy use helped make fiscal 2016 the most energy-efficient year in our company's history. Since the outset of our energy management programs in fiscal 2007, the collective electricity efficiency of our offices around the globe has improved more than 30 percent.

From closing employment gaps to advancing client sustainability to accelerating gender equality in the workforce, corporate citizenship has long been central to Accenture's vision. With more than 50,000 Accenture people in the United States alone, we are committed to improving the way the world works and lives, for our clients, people and communities.

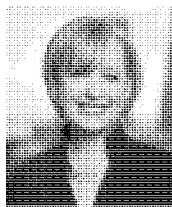
In fiscal 2016, we invested nearly \$17 million in cash and pro bono contributions in communities across the United States. For example:

- ⊗ As part of our **Skills to Succeed** corporate citizenship initiative, we are skilling and reskilling women, veterans, opportunity youth and immigrants to thrive in the digital economy. With our strategic partners, we have equipped nearly 400,000 individuals in the United States with employment and entrepreneurship skills since inception. This contributed to our global goal of equipping more than 3 million people by 2020 with the skills to get a job or build a business.
- ⊗ We are also using our digital capabilities and calling on the passions and skills of our people to support immigrants and refugees and the organizations that serve them. We have helped Upwardly Global build its online job training platform, which equips jobseekers with acculturation, job search and technical skills. To date, approximately 4,400 jobseekers have accessed this online training, of whom nearly 2,000 have secured professional positions.

At the same time, we continue to strengthen our commitment to our own diversity, which makes us stronger, smarter and more innovative:

- ⊗ In July, after violence shook the country, we invited our people to our first "Building Bridges" town hall on race. That webcast conversation sparked an ongoing dialogue with face-to-face meetings across our local offices and is an important part of our commitment to fostering greater collaboration and trust.
- ⊗ We surpassed our goal to reach 40 percent women new hires, growing our workforce to more than 17,000 women in the United States.

We are proud of our progress but know there is more to do. We must find new ways to make a measurable difference. As we tackle the complex issues ahead, we will continue to focus on cross-sector collaboration and the power of digital technologies to drive change and realize our sustainability goals.



**Julie Sweet**

Chief Executive Officer — North America

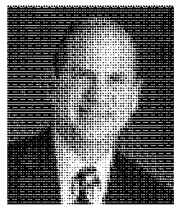
As a human capital management provider, we believe that employability — helping people access the skills and opportunities they need to succeed — is a critical social and business imperative. As ADP has reported every month, the U.S. labor market has experienced an unprecedented seven years of growth that has brought us to near full employment. During that period, the U.S. private sector added more than 15 million jobs. As the labor market tightens, identifying new sources of talent with the right skills becomes critical to the sustained growth of our economy.

When I think about how ADP helps to deliver success to our employees, clients and the communities we serve, addressing these talent and employment challenges is crucial. To do so, we offer products and services that help clients hire, retain and train their people, and for our employees, we provide education, job skills training, mentoring and career assistance to help them unlock their potential to find and maintain fulfilling employment.

One source of great talent in this tightening labor market is our veteran community. Our veterans are incredibly resilient and possess great leadership, great management and innovative problem-solving skills that businesses today need to succeed. In 2015 we began a targeted effort to build an integrated hiring and onboarding program for veterans, which has been highly successful. In our first year, we achieved a 400 percent increase and now have more than 1,000 veterans employed. Our plan is to more than double that by 2020 through three key initiatives:

- 1) Creating an Inclusive Environment:** We are training hiring managers on how to effectively translate military skills to business skills, helping them better understand the value a veteran can bring to our corporate culture.
- 2) Engaging Our Veteran Employees:** We have established veteran mentoring circles at many of our office locations and have focused heavily on increasing membership and engagement in our Business Resource Group: Military Strong. In the past year, this group has tripled its size to more than 1,000 members.
- 3) Establishing Strategic Partnerships:** We now work closely with groups like Hiring Our Heroes, the United Service Organization and the Military Spouse Employment Partnership Program to become more connected with the veteran community and grow our candidate pipeline.

We are proud of our efforts to increase employment of veterans and are lucky to have these talented individuals contribute to our culture and overall business success.



**Carlos A. Rodriguez**  
President and Chief Executive Officer



A more human resource.™

[www.adp.com/who-we-are/  
corporate-social-responsibility.aspx](http://www.adp.com/who-we-are/corporate-social-responsibility.aspx)

*"As a human capital management provider, we believe that employability — helping people access the skills and opportunities they need to succeed — is a critical social and business imperative."*



[www.aecom.com/  
about-aecom/sustainability/](http://www.aecom.com/about-aecom/sustainability/)

"We leverage our unparalleled global expertise across services, markets and geographies to deliver transformative solutions. We design, build, finance and operate critical infrastructure assets and programs that unlock opportunities, protect our environment and improve people's lives in more than 150 countries."

## 10 YEARS OF SHARED SUCCESS A Sustainable Experience

The Golden 1 Center in Sacramento, CA, is the world's first indoor sports arena to achieve a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Platinum certification. AECOM provided a combination of design, planning and engineering services to deliver a 100 percent solar-powered structure made of 36 percent recycled materials that will serve more than 200 events a year at net-zero energy. Innovative cooling, light, heat and plumbing systems save enough energy to power a 120,000-square-foot office building and 700,000 gallons of water per year. Cutting its carbon footprint by 2,000 tons annually, the Golden 1 Center is the model for sustainable sports design.

AECOM is committed to sustainability, whether it's through the built environment we help shape or social programs that enable communities to be more resilient to future changes. Sustainable solutions and innovation are at the core of what we do and how we operate.

**Sustainable Solutions for People and Environment:** We leverage our unparalleled global expertise across services, markets and geographies to deliver transformative solutions. We design, build, finance and operate critical infrastructure assets and programs that unlock opportunities, protect our environment and improve lives in more than 150 countries. In partnership with our clients, AECOM delivers sustainable innovations:

- ⊗ Advanced green building systems that harness 100 percent of their energy from natural sources and seamlessly blend different experiences with the natural environment;
- ⊗ Energy-efficient transportation hubs designed to withstand a myriad of environmental conditions with minimal carbon footprint; and
- ⊗ Cutting-edge tools to evaluate and generate energy conservation measures that strengthen future resilience and capabilities.

We empower communities to design for the future:

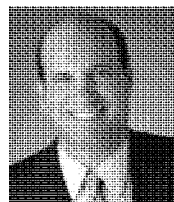
- ⊗ Trading hubs to increase intraregional trade, food security and international competitiveness for farmers; and
- ⊗ Economic Transformation Programs to elevate underdeveloped nations and transform communities into vibrant centers with high economic and commercial value.

**Partnerships Focused on People and Planet:** AECOM works closely with many organizations to build a more sustainable planet:

- ⊗ Since 2012, we have partnered with CDP (formerly the Carbon Disclosure Project) to analyze the climate change-related data for more than 500 global cities and to report how urban centers are tackling these challenges.
- ⊗ With Rockefeller Foundation's 100 Resilient Cities program and the Van Alen Institute, AECOM has organized and supported the UrbanSOS student competition. The effort is designed to enable future generations to solve our most pressing sustainability challenges through technology and innovative thinking.
- ⊗ With 100 Resilient Cities, we've continued to collaborate with chief resilience officers in 16 global cities to assess baseline strategies and improve resilience.

**A Reduced Environmental Footprint:** As a global company, AECOM recognizes our expansive footprint and focuses on practices that reduce energy consumption and waste. We've implemented a sustainability data management system to better track and analyze data and enable continuous improvement. We've launched initiatives to decrease energy consumption and consolidated our physical footprint nearly 10 percent year over year to significantly reduce our greenhouse gas emissions by 2020.

Through innovative processes and our integrated approach to clients, partnerships and our operations, AECOM aims to build a better world.



**Michael S. Burke**  
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer

AES has driven energy-sector growth and pioneered technology advances in several markets around the world. Today we stand as a global energy industry leader in innovation and operational excellence with electricity generation and distribution businesses across four continents.

Whether it's bringing electricity to families for the first time or engineering innovative solutions to make a clean energy future possible, 21,000 AES people work every day to power communities and improve quality of life in a fast-changing world.

Access to affordable, sustainable and reliable power is necessary for societies to advance and for economies to grow. In 2004, AES began a program in Brazilian favelas to provide safe and regular electrical connections that has benefited more than 2.6 million people in Sao Paulo and Rio Grande do Sul to date. This program benefits both AES and the communities by helping reduce commercial losses while promoting safety, economic development, reliable energy and social inclusion for our customers who now can use their bills as proof of residence. A similar rural electrification program in El Salvador has provided access to electricity for the first time to more than 350,000 people since 2001.

AES has a history of innovation, starting with the company's founding as one of the United States' first independent power producers and continuing today as a world leader in providing energy storage solutions and in the use of drones.

Nearly 10 years ago, a small group of AES people began working on applying advanced battery technology to the electric grid. Several generations of energy storage projects and hundreds of millions of investment dollars later AES has introduced Advancion 4, our latest generation of battery-based energy storage. Advancion 4 reduces the cost of delivering electricity, supports the integration of renewables like wind and solar, and enables grid reliability and resiliency.

Safety is our first value, and we continuously look for ways to do things more safely. AES has used drones in 10 different countries for things like power line, reservoir, cooling tower and boiler inspections. This helps keep people out of harm's way by reducing the number of hazardous work hours required for maintenance activities while enhancing business efficiency.

At AES, we're committed to improving lives by turning ideas into real solutions by focusing on three areas: developing a clean, unbreakable grid; creating a safer, smarter workplace; and considering the full energy value chain when seeking solutions to meet the challenges of growing communities and economies around the world.



[www.aes.com](http://www.aes.com)

*"AES has a history of innovation in the power industry, whether it's bringing electricity to families for the first time, engineering innovative solutions like battery energy storage to make a clean energy future possible or being a leader in drone-based applications."*



**Andrés Gluski**  
President and Chief Executive Officer





[www.aksteel.com](http://www.aksteel.com)

"As a responsible corporate citizen, AK Steel strongly supports the importance of making positive contributions in the communities where our employees live and work."

As a company that consistently strives to be a leader in the global steel sector in environmental compliance and energy conservation, AK Steel focuses on operating in an environmentally responsible manner. The company takes a proactive approach to environmental management by following its comprehensive environmental policy. This includes recycling, recovery and reuse of residual materials, as well as reducing and preventing emissions to the extent feasible.

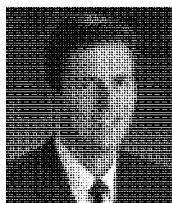
We are particularly proud of our environmental performance this past year, during which our company set annual records for water and air compliance. Air permit and water deviations were reduced by 75 percent. And because we strive for continuous improvement at all our operations, results at our Dearborn Works and Mountain State Carbon locations improved by 99 percent over the past two years. Strong progress continues at our Dearborn Works facility, which was acquired in September 2014, to achieve environmental, safety, quality and operational improvements. Even with the addition of this facility, AK Steel's overall company safety record remains more than approximately four times better than the industry average.

Many of our innovative steel products also have environmental benefits. AK Steel is helping to improve the fuel efficiency of vehicles through our Advanced High Strength Steels, which are lighter but have outstanding strength and formability characteristics versus traditional materials. We are also enhancing the energy efficiency of transformers through our high-efficiency electrical steels, which we ship across the globe. More efficient transformers reduce the amount of electricity that needs to be generated for the electrical grid system.

The North American steel industry's long-standing commitment to sustainability programs has already transformed steel into the world's most recycled material, with more than 65 million tons of steel recycled annually. Steel also has a lower energy use and carbon dioxide emissions per ton than a number of alternative materials.

As a responsible corporate citizen, AK Steel strongly supports the importance of making positive contributions in the communities where our employees live and work. In fact, AK Steel makes financial contributions to nonprofit organizations in every community in which we operate. This year the company also launched its AK CARES program to support and recognize employees who donate their time and talents to local and regional nonprofit organizations.

Through the AK Steel Foundation, the company contributed nearly \$1.5 million in 2016 to support community and nonprofit programs, scholarships and grants, including matching employee gifts to applicable nonprofit agencies. Over the years, the AK Steel Foundation has donated millions of dollars to the United Way across our headquarters location and plant communities. AK Steel is also a corporate sponsor of one of the largest fine arts funds in the nation, helping to keep the arts accessible and affordable across the region where many of our employees live.



**Roger K. Newport**  
Chief Executive Officer

At Altec, we are committed to sustainable solutions and social responsibility. It is a commitment reflected in a set of core values focused on our customers and associates. The business decisions that we make are based on meeting the needs of the present, without compromising the requirements of the future. Working with our customers and suppliers, we continuously aspire to responsibly care for our shared environment.



[www.altec.com](http://www.altec.com)

To help meet our commitment to social responsibility, Altec has a long-standing and established environmental policy focused on achieving a world-class reputation for energy management. The initiative has become the cornerstone of our sustainability efforts as we pursue a high-performance portfolio that uses energy in the most efficient, cost-effective and environmentally responsible manner possible.

To help achieve our sustainability policy objectives, Altec created a series of near-term goals:

**Metering:** Electronic energy metering systems at our facilities allow us to track consumption, determine energy conservation opportunities and accurately assess energy savings.

**Specific Energy Reduction Targets:** Altec facilities develop precise metrics for meeting energy objectives by establishing reduction, programmatic and behavioral goals and timelines.

**Incentive-Based Systems:** Energy usage tracking programs allow corporate management to analyze utility consumption and serve to incentivize energy conservation and efficiency programs.

**Education and Awareness:** Altec has a coordinated strategy to educate associates on plant and facility energy usage including communication centers to keep workers informed on energy reduction progress. In addition, associates are encouraged to take personal responsibility for their energy usage.

**Computer and Information Technology Equipment:** Network server equipment, office equipment, copy machines, computers, printers and monitors are turned off when not in use for extended periods and at the end of the workday.

Other important sustainability initiatives that we've implemented include the relamping of 92 percent of our facilities with LED lighting, installation of recycle wash bays helping to significantly reduce wastewater discharge and the installation of solar energy systems at our largest plants.

Altec's sustainable solutions also remain focused on the products that we engineer and produce. We are continuing to make significant strides in the field of energy-efficient truck-mounted utility equipment. This technology includes the usage of lightweight materials like aluminum and fiberglass, alternative fuel systems, and the Altec Jobsite Energy Management System (JEMS). This innovative system uses stored electrical energy to power truck-mounted aerial devices, hydraulic tools and exportable power sources. Altec JEMS products increase operator efficiency, decrease fuel consumption and greenhouse gas emissions, and help lower noise pollution.

"It is exciting to look back over the past decade and recognize the progress produced by BRT member companies in helping solve environmental challenges. Looking forward, we are equally excited about the opportunities presented to all of us to make positive environmental and social contributions that will benefit both society and business."



A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Lee Styslinger III'.

**Lee Styslinger III**  
Chairman and CEO